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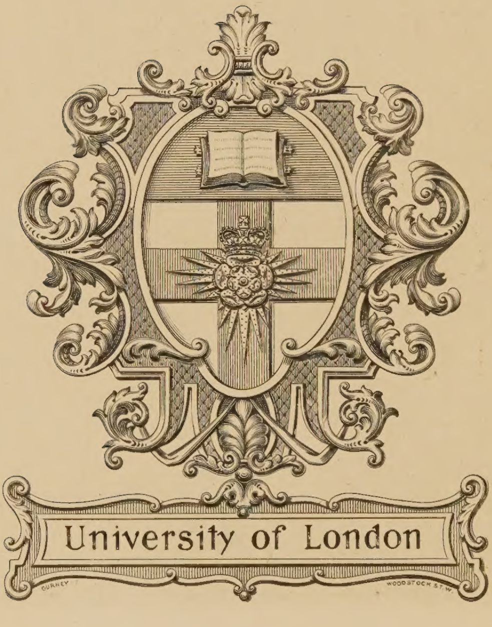
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

1 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME XCII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH
TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF APRIL,

1901.

FOURTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

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Chronology of "The Parliamentary Debates."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

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TOOK THE OATH.—The Viscount Bangor took the Oath 1

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with—Worcester Tramways [H.L.]; and also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with—Rodgers' Patent (Petition for Bill). The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1

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Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, Etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Manchester (Market Street Area) Improvements Bill [H.L.]; Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway Bill [H.L.]; Stockport Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—E. Tankerville, V. Falkland (Chairman), V. Bangor, V. Frankfort de Montmorency, L. Wrottesley. Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Tuesday, the 23rd of April, next, at Eleven of the clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 4

Watford and District Tramways Bill.—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2*a*.—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Lord Ebury 4
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 5

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2*a* accordingly.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Code of regulations for Day Schools; with schedules and appendices. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 6

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Amending General Order for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Act 6

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (MANUFACTURE OF EARTHENWARE AND CHINA).—Amended special rules for the manufacture of earthenware and china 6

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACTS.—Minutes sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for the (1) County Borough of South Shields (4th minute); (2) County of Glamorgan (10th minute). Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 6

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Ribblesdale 7

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2*a*.—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

The Under Secretary of State for India (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) .. 7

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Ribblesdale 7

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2*a*.—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

The Earl of Hardwicke 8

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

TRANSVAAL CONCESSIONS COMMISSION:—

The Earl of Camperdown 8

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Onslow*) .. 11

CHINA—PRESENT POSITION AND POLICY:—

Earl Spencer 12

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 15

Lord Tweedmouth 29

The Earl of Hardwicke 32

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered to-morrow, in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting 36

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Committee, to consist of five Members, to join with a Committee of this House to consider the various charitable agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds supplied by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war; and to request this House to appoint an equal number of Lords to be joined with the Members of their House; the said Message to be taken into consideration to-morrow 36

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PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Committee, to consist of five Members, to join with a Committee of this House to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords, and to request this House to appoint an equal number of Lords to be joined with the Members of their House; the said Message to be taken into consideration to-morrow 36

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.—One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.. .. 37

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH.)—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Barry Railway. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 37

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz., Rodgers' Patent [Lords]. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 37

Great Western Railway Bill.—(BY ORDER.)—Read a second time, and committed 38

BARRY RAILWAY.—Petition for Bill; referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 38

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HAM) PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Bill to confirm a scheme relating to Ham Common, in the parish of Ham, in the county of Surrey, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Metropolitan Common Scheme (Ham) Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a scheme relating to Ham Common, in the parish of Ham, in the county of Surrey," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 126.] 38

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (ORPINGTON) PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Bill to confirm a scheme relating to Broom Hill Common and other Commons in the parish of Orpington, in the county of Kent, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Metropolitan Common Scheme (Orpington) Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a scheme relating to Broom Hill Common and other Commons in the parish of Orpington, in the County of Kent," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 127.] 38

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Carlisle, Erith, Hornsey, Oxford, and Whitley and Monkseaton, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Carlisle, Erith, Hornsey, Oxford, and Whitley and Monkseaton," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 128.] 38

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parish of Saint Giles, Camberwell, the Southampton Incorporation, and the Stepney Union, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parish of Saint Giles, Camberwell, the Southampton Incorporation, and the Stepney Union," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed [Bill 129.] 39

Thames Piers and River Service Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table 39

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A.).—Mr. Alexander Hargreaves Brown reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd April, at Twelve of the clock; Report to lie upon the Table 39

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow 39

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order Confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 39

Thames and Severn Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow 40

Honley Urban District Council (Gas) Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 40

Neath Harbour Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 40

Bury Corporation Tramways Bill; Great Eastern Railway Bill; Taff Vale Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 40

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Knutsford; and Southern Division of Wilts; to lie upon the Table 40

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COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Kidsgrove; Buttlane; Birchinwood; Pack Moor; Morley Main; Swinton; Holbrook; Wharncliffe (No. 3); Audley; Pittshill; Madeley and Leycett; Brown Edge; Halmer End; Bucknall; Golden Hill; Milton; Harriseahead; Whitfield; Lochgelly; Chesterton; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Clanway; Cheadle; West Hallam; and Shipley Woodside Collieries; to lie upon the Table 40

LICENSING (SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS).—Petition from Manchester for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 40

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Swinton; Morley Main; Holbrook; Mow Cop; Kidsgrove; Buttlane; Birchinwood; Pack Moor; Audley; West Hallam; Wharncliffe; Silkstone; Pittshill; Madeley and Leycett; Brown Edge; Halmer End; Bucknall; Golden Hill; Milton; Harriseahead; Cheadle; Whitfield; Lochgelly; Chesterton; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Knutton; Clanway; and Woodside Collieries; to lie upon the Table 40

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY (MONMOUTHSHIRE).—Petition from Coedpoeth for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 41

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Norwich (two); Headley Hill (two); Balachulish; Cornsay Colliery (six); Levenshulme (two); Heaton Moor; South Cheriton; Dalton in Furness; Kilmaurs; Alnwick; Forfar (three); Clitheroe; Burnley; East Ardsley; Mirfield; Sheffield; Edinburgh; Denbigh; Llangollen; Pendleton; and Rossett; to lie upon the Table 41

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Ardrossan; Stevenston; Stornoway; Fraserburgh; Montrose (three); Arbroath (two); Insch; Forfar; Ayr; Udny; Culsamond; Maxwelltown; and Rutherglen; to lie upon the Table .. 41

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 41

MONMOUTH BOROUGHS ELECTION PETITION (THOMAS EMBREY AND ANOTHER v. FREDERICK RUTHERFOORD HARRIS).—A Petition of Hollams, Sons, Coward and Hawksley, solicitors, for leave to the proper officer of the House to attend a trial and produce documents and give evidence in the High Court of Justice. Leave to the proper officer to attend accordingly 41

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).—Paper [presented 27th March] to be printed [No. 106.] 41

ARMY (CLOTHING FACTORY).—Annual Account presented, of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1899–1900, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 107.] 42

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (ARMY VOTES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 27th March, 1901, under the Appropriation Act, 1899, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Army Votes for the year 1899–1900 to meet excesses on certain other Army Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 108.] 42

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TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.—Copies presented, of Minutes sanctioning the Subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Act for the following County Borough and County:—County Borough of South Shields (Fourth Minute), dated 6th March, 1901; County of Glamorgan (Tenth Minute), dated 8th March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 42

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2566 and 2567 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 42

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Inquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Durham). -Further Return relative thereto [ordered 14th February, 1900; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. [No. 109.] 42

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.—Return ordered, "of the Additional and Supplementary Estimates voted in each of the years since 1890, distinguishing those due to active military operations."—(*Sir Edgar Vincent.*) 42

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (IRELAND).—Return ordered, "showing, in respect to the Registration of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors for each County and Borough during the year 1900, the salaries and travelling expenses of Revising Barristers; the inclusive salaries of the Assistants to Clerks of the Peace at Revision Sessions; the sums certified by the Treasury to be the Additional Cost recoverable from local bodies under Section 1 (4) of the Registration (Ireland) Act, 1898; the expenses of printing voters' lists, and all other expenses connected therewith."—(*Mr. M'Fadden.*) 43

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (EXPENSES).—Address for "Return of Charges made to Candidates at the General Election of 1900 in Great Britain and Ireland by Returning Officers, specifying the total expenses of each Candidate (both exclusive and inclusive of Returning Officers' Charges) delivered to the Returning Officer pursuant to the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883, and the number of Votes polled for each Candidate (in continuation of and in the same form as Parliamentary Paper, No. 145, of Session 1896).—The totals of each column to be shown separately for England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, with a Summary showing the gross totals."—(*Mr. Armine Wodehouse.*) 43

BREWERS' LICENCES.—Return ordered, "of Accounts of the number of persons in each of the several Collections of the United Kingdom licensed as Brewers for sale, *i.e.*, Common Brewers, Victuallers, Retailers of beer to be drunk on the premises, Retailers of beer not to be drunk on the premises, and Brewers of beer not for sale, particularising each class in each Collection; and stating also the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., and sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., used by Brewers of beer for sale, and of malt and sugar used by Brewers not for sale, from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900.

"Of the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900, distinguishing Brewers for sale from other Brewers.

"Of the number of Brewers for sale paying for Licences, from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900, separating them into classes, according to the number of barrels of beer brewed, namely, under 1,000 barrels, at 1.055 degrees gravity; 1,000 and under 10,000; 10,000 and under 20,000; 20,000 and under 30,000; 30,000 and under 50,000; 50,000 and under 100,000; 100,000 and under 150,000; 150,000 and under 200,000; 200,000 and under

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250,000; 250,000 and under 300,000; 300,000 and under 350,000; 350,000 and under 400,000; 400,000 and under 450,000; 450,000 and under 500,000; 500,000 and under 600,000; 600,000 and under 700,000; 700,000 and under 800,000; 800,000 and under 900,000; 900,000 and under 1,000,000; 1,000,000 and under 1,500,000; 1,500,000 and under 2,000,000; 2,000,000 barrels and over; showing separately, in each class, the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., and sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., used; and stating also the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged in each class.

"And of the number of barrels of beer exported from the United Kingdom, and the declared value thereof, and where exported to, from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900, distinguishing England, Scotland, and Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 69, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) .. 44

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SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—AFRIKANDER DELEGATES' PETITION TO BE HEARD AT THE BAR.—Questions, Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs) and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 45

LAWS OF WARFARE—HAGUE CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 45

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PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA—SIR ALFRED MILNER.—Questions, Sir John Leng (Dundee) and Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 45

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CAMPS OF DETENTION.—Question, Mr. C. P. Scott; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 46

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Mediterranean Fleet and Channel Squadron Cruisers.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 51

Cost of New Royal Yacht.—Questions, Mr. Labouchere (Northampton), Mr. Wolff (Belfast, E.), and Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet); Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 51

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Russia and Manchuria—Anglo-German Agreement.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) Mr. Conor O'Kelly (Mayo, N.), and Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answers, Viscount Cranborne 54

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QUESTIONS—PROPOSED LIMITATION OF NUMBERS.—Question, Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 89

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 89

CIVIL LIST.—Power given to the Select Committee to report their observations.

Report brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 110.)

Minutes of proceedings, with an appendix, to be printed. (No. 110.) .. 89

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE:—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do meet to-morrow at Eleven of the clock a.m."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*).

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 90
Mr. A. J. Balfour 90

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW BILLS.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS AMENDMENT:—

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*) 90
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 92

Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Ritchie and Mr. Jesse Collings.

Factory and Workshop Acts Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Factory and Workshop Acts," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 130.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS CONSOLIDATION:—

Mr. Ritchie 94

Bill to consolidate the Factory and Workshop Act, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Ritchie and Mr. Jesse Collings.

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Factory and Workshop Acts Consolidation Bill.—"To consolidate the Factory and Workshop Acts," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 131.]

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read the third time."

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS :—

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Mr. Stroyan (Perthshire, W.) 103
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The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 123
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Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present; House counted, and forty Members being found present——

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Discussion :—

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The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 189
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 190
Mr. Bell (Derby) 192

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 167; Noes, 65. (Division List No. 109.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

The House divided :—Ayes, 182; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 110.)

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Adjourned at ten minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1901.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Brought from the Commons, and read 1*a* 197

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting 197

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Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill read 2*a* (The Earl Waldegrave); Committee negatived; Bill read 3*a*, and passed 197

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

COMMISSION.—The following Bill received the Royal Assent:—Consolidated Fund (No. 1) 197

House adjourned during pleasure; and resumed.

APPEAL COMMITTEE.—First Report from; read, and agreed to 197

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—Barry Railway. The same was ordered to lie on the Table 197

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided compliance with Standing Order No. 62 be proved before the Examiners.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings) Bill ought to be dispensed with, provided that Tramways Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9, 10, 10D, 11, 11A, and 11B be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the West and South London Junction Railway Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that the following clause be inserted:—Nothing in this Act shall authorise the West and South London Junction Railway Company to enter upon, take, or use (except by agreement) any cellar or vault in or under any street belonging to or connected with any building, or the sub-soil under such cellar or vault, unless such cellar or vault or the building with which it is connected is described in the deposited Books of Reference.

Read, and agreed to 197

Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [H.L.].—Reported without Amendment 198

Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported with Amendments 198

Stratton and Bude Improvement Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn; the order made on the 8th instant discharged, and Bill committed 198

Worcester Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2*a*. 198

Warkworth Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Portmadock, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway Bill [H.L.]; Newport (Isle of Wight) Gas Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill [H.L.]; Harpenden District Gas Bill [H.L.]; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Corporation (General Powers) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Dartrey be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee, in the place of the Earl of Lauderdale; and that the Earl of Dartrey be Chairman of the said Committee; read, and agreed to 198

Light Railways Act, 1896.—Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising—
1. The construction of light railways in the county of Lancashire, from Ormskirk to Southport;
2. The construction of a light railway in the county of Essex, between Kelvedon and River Blackwater;
3. The construction of Light railways in the borough of Morley and the Urban Districts of Drighlington, Gildersome, and East and West Ardsley, in the West Riding of the county of York;
4. The construction of a light railway in the county of Kent, from Hollingbourn to Faversham;
5. The construction of light railways in the parishes of Hemsworth, Ackworth, and Badsworth, in the West Riding of the county of York;
6. The construction of a light railway in the county of Salop, from Cleobury Mortimer to Ditton Priors;
7. The deviation of a light railway authorised by the West Hartlepool Light Railways Order, 1897; and for other purposes.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 199

TRAMWAYS (CONSENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Petition against the Amendment of Standing Order No. 22, of Lewisham Corporation; read, and ordered to lie upon the Table. 199

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR STANDING COMMITTEES.—Report from, That the Committee have added The Lord Fairlie (*E. Glasgow*) to the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 200

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1*a*; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 29.) .. 200

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.—Ordered, that Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Easter, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the recess 200

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (ROYAL INDIAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE).—Remodelling of course of instruction and retirement of certain of the professors and lecturers; Report of the Board of Visitors, dated 25th March, 1901, and Minutes of Evidence taken before them. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 200

Prisons (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

The Earl of Glasgow 200

Moved, that the following clauses be added to the Bill—

"(1) Prisoners convicted of offences, either on indictment or otherwise, and not sentenced to penal servitude or hard labour, shall be divided into three divisions.

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"(2) When a person is convicted by any court of an offence, and is sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour, the court may, if it think fit, having regard to the nature of the offence and the antecedents of the offender, direct that he be treated as an offender of the first division or an offender of the second division. If no direction is given by the court, the offender shall, subject to the provisions of this section, be treated as an offender of the third division.

"(3) Any person imprisoned in default in payment of a debt, including a civil debt recovered summarily, or in default or in lieu of distress to satisfy a sum of money adjudged to be paid by order of a court of summary jurisdiction when the imprisonment is to be without hard labour, shall be placed in a separate division and treated under special prison rules, and shall not be placed in association with criminal persons, nor be compelled to wear prison dress unless his own clothing is unfit for use.

"(4) Any person imprisoned for default of entering into a recognisance or finding securities for keeping the peace or for being of good behaviour, shall be treated under the same rules as an offender of the second division unless he be a convicted prisoner, or unless the court direct that he be treated under the same rules as an offender of the first division."—(*The Earl of Glasgow.*)

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 202

Amendment by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Remaining clauses agreed to. Bill reported without amendment; and recommitted to the Standing Committee.

EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.—Question, Lord Norton; Answer, *The* Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire) 204

RIFLE RANGE NEAR WINCHESTER.—Moved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for copy of the letter of the Under Secretary of State for War to Mr. Myers, M.P., of the 15th January, 1901, on the provision of a rifle range near Winchester, and for any Reports on the arrangements for the rifle practice of the recruits at the Winchester Depot and the Yeomanry and Volunteers whose headquarters are at Winchester, also for the correspondence between the War Office and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or other owners of land in reference thereto (The Earl of Northbrook); agreed to, and ordered accordingly 205

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—Commons message considered (according to order).

Moved, That a Committee of five Lords be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons as mentioned in the said Message (The Lord President, *Duke of Devonshire*); agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee:—M. Cholmondeley; E. Spencer; E. Howe; E. Carrington; L. Rathmore.

Ordered, That such Committee have power to agree with the Committee of the House of Commons in the appointment of a chairman.

Then a Message was ordered to be sent to the House of Commons in answer to their said message to inform them of the appointment of the said Committee by this House 205

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Commons message considered (according to order).

Moved, That a Committee of seven Lords be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons as mentioned in the said Message (The Lord Raglan); agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee :—M. Bath ; E. Dartmouth ; E. Malmesbury ; E. Westmeath ; V. Hampden ; L. Newton ; L. James.

Ordered, That such Committee have power to agree with the Committee of the House of Commons in the appointment of a chairman.

Then a Message was ordered to be sent to the House of Commons in answer to their said Message to inform them of the appointment of the said Committee by this House 206

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1901.

The House met at Eleven of the clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, without amendment 206

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.
The House went ; and, having returned—Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1901 207

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Dearne Valley Junction Railways) Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 207

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—North British Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 207

Horley District Gas Bill and Crawley Gas Bill.—Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Horley District Gas Bill and the Crawley Gas Bill that they have power, if they think fit, to consolidate the said two Bills, or any part or parts thereof respectively, into one Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 207

Great Central Railway Bill.—Petition for additional Provision ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 208

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 208

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Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Thames and Severn Provisional Order Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next 208

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 5) Bill.—To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Macclesfield, Ripon, Todmorden, Trowbridge, Ware, Wellingborough (Public Purposes), Wellington (Salop), Widnes, Wisbech, and Workington, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain 208

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 5) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Macclesfield, Ripon, Todmorden, Trowbridge, Ware, Wellingborough (Public Purposes), Wellington (Salop), Widnes, Wisbech, and Workington," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 132.] 208

London Bridge Widening Bill; Derwent Valley Water Board Bill; Tees Valley Water Board Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 208

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS :—

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for supplying with gas the parish of Arlesey and other places in the county of Bedford." Arlesey Gas Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill intituled, "An Act to convert the capital of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Company; to empower the Company to raise additional capital; and for other purposes." Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [Lords].

And also a Bill intituled, "An Act to increase the number of the Council of the Borough of Folkestone, in the county of Kent; and for other purposes." Folkestone Corporation Bill [Lords]. 208

Arlesey Gas Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [Lords]; Folkestone Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 209

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Rotherham; and Peterborough; to lie upon the Table 209

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Fenton (three); Longton (No. 1); Gark Hall; Longton (No. 2); Polton; Outfield; Loanhead; Rosewell; Newbattle; Wallyford; Carberry; Staveley; Brownhills; Hanley (No. 3); Hanley (No. 5); Hanley (No. 1); Hanley Deep Pit; Nostell; Haigh; St. Helens; Flimby; Ellenborough; Bullgill; Gillhead; Buckhill; Seaton Moor; Robin Hood; Lepton; Clayton West; Old Silkstone; Birley (No. 1); Wortley and Farnley; and Kirkintilloch Collieries; to lie upon the Table 209

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS)—Petition from Rotherham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 209

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petition from Cambridge, in favour; to lie upon the Table 209

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Fenton (three); Longton (No. 1); Gark Hall; Wallyford; Carberry; Edinburgh; Loanhead; Brownhills; Hanley (No. 5); Hanley (No. 3); Hanley (No. 1); Deep Pit, Hanley; North Staveley; Haigh; Nostell; Robin Hood; Seaton Moor; Buckhill; Gillhead; Bullgill; Flimby; Ellenborough; Saint Helens; Outfield; Clayton West; Lepton; Lye; Two Gates; Old Silkstone; Birley (No. 1); Wortley and Farnley; and Cakemore Collieries; to lie upon the Table 209

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—Petition from Shipley, in favour; to lie upon the Table 210

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Pickering; Dearham; Workington (three); Maryport; Netherton; Hermiston; West Croydon; Leicester; Mexborough; Oulton; Rothwell; Stanley-cum-Wrenthorpe; Ham; Hedgman; Pentre Estyll; Pickering; Sunday School Union; Islington; Cockermouth; Llanllyfni; New Malden; Hatherleigh; Okehampton; Hackney; and Shoreditch; to lie upon the Table 210

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Cawdor; Naidu Landward; Lossiemouth; Drainie; Glenluce; Thurso; Edinburgh (two); Tain (two); New Spynie; and Kingskettle; to lie upon the Table 210

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Light Railways Act, 1896 :—

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the parishes of Hemsworth, Ackworth, and Badsworth, in the West Riding of the county of York (Brackenhill Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the borough of Morley and the urban districts of Drighlington, Gildersome, and East and West Ardsley, in the West Riding of the county of York (Morley and District Light Railways Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the deviation of a Light Railway authorised by the West Hartlepool Light Railways Order, 1897, and for other purposes (West Hartlepool Light Railways [Deviation, etc.] Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Salop from Cleobury Mortimer to Ditton Priors (Cleobury Mortimer and Ditton Priors Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Essex between Kelvedon and River Blackwater (Kelvedon, Tiptree, and Tollesbury Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

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Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the county of Lancaster from Ormskirk to Southport (Ormskirk and Southport Light Railways Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Kent from Hollingbourne to Faversham (Maidstone and Faversham Junction Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 211

Brewers' Licences.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 28th March; *Mr. Austen Chamberlain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 111.]

Fleets (Great Britain and Foreign Countries).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th December, 1900; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 112.] 212

East India (Royal Indian Engineering College).—Copy presented, of Papers relating to Remodelling of Course of Instruction and Retirement of certain of the Professors and Lecturers; and Report of the Board of Visitors, dated 25th March, 1901, and Minutes of Evidence taken before them [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 212

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Plague at Cape Town.—Question, Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 214

Peace Negotiations with General Botha.—Question, Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 214

afeking Siege—Thefts of Government Foodstuffs.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 214

Imperial Yeomanry.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 215

Army Reorganisation.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 215

Mark IV. Bullets.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 215

Defective Naval Guns.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 216

Malta—Language Question.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 216

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors.—That they have appointed a Committee consisting of seven Lords to join with a Committee of the Commons, pursuant to Message of this House, to consider the various charitable agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds supplied by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war

Presence of the Sovereign in Parliament.—That they have appointed a Committee consisting of five Lords to join with a Committee of the Commons, pursuant to Message of this House, to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords 236

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NEW BILLS.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES (REPAYMENT OF LOANS).—Bill to extend the period for the repayment of Loans raised for the provision of Workmen's Dwellings, and to confer further borrowing powers on local authorities, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hay, Mr. Bull, Mr. Duke, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Mr. Flower, Mr. Goulding, Mr. Remnant, and Mr. H. S. Samuel.

Housing of Working Classes (Repayment of Loans) Bill.—"To extend the period for the repayment of Loans raised for the provision of Workmen's Dwellings, and to confer further borrowing powers on local authorities," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 133.] 236

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT.—Bill to amend the Law relating to Light Railways and Tramways in Ireland, and to assimilate the Law relating thereto in Ireland to that in England, ordered to be brought in by Mr. O'Doherty, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Archdale, Mr. Condon, Mr. Lonsdale, and Mr. Carvill.

Tramways (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Light Railways and Tramways in Ireland, and to assimilate the Law relating thereto in Ireland to that in England," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 134.] 237

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND) Bill.—"For the acquisition of certain Land near the National Gallery in London, and for purposes connected therewith, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Akers Douglas and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

National Gallery (Purchase of Adjacent Land) Bill.—"For the acquisition of certain Land near the National Gallery in London, and for purposes connected therewith," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 135.] 237

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS JOINT COMMITTEE.—Ordered, That two Members be added to the Select Committee on Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors: Mr. Archdale and Colonel Nolan.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 237

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[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 87 ; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 111).

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Captain Norton .. 261
Mr. John Wilson (*Durham, Mid*) .. 261
Mr. Lambert .. 263
Mr. Herbert Lewis .. 263

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item T be reduced by £40, in respect of Contributions in Aid of Religious Institutions."—(*Mr. Lambert.*)

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) .. 264

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 130 ; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 113.)

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Original Question again proposed.

Captain Norton 267
Mr. T. P. O'Connor 268
Mr. Arnold-Forster 269
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 269
Captain Norton 269
Mr. Allen (*Gloucestershire, Stroud*) 269

Question put and agreed to.

3. £790,900, Half-Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay.

4. £340,600, Civil Pensions and Gratuities.

5. £219,000, Medical Establishments and Services.

6. £16,200, Martial Law, etc.

Mr. Kearley 270
Sir John Colomb 271
Mr. E. J. C. Morton (*Devonport*) 271
Mr. Arnold-Forster 271

Resolution agreed to.

7. £100,600, Educational Services.

8. £65,800, Scientific Services.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901-2.

9. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £119,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Discussion :—

The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 272
Captain Norton 273
Mr. Richards (*Finsbury, E.*) 273
Mr. A. J. Balfour 274
Sir Charles Dilke 274
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*).. 275

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 179 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 114).

10. £218,200, Miscellaneous Effective Services.

11. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,485,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals, and the In-Pensioners thereof ; of Out-Pensions ; of the maintenance of Lunatics for whom Pensions are not drawn ; and of Gratuities awarded in Commutation and in lieu of Pensions, of Rewards for Meritorious Services ; of Victoria Cross Pensions ; and of Pensions, etc., to the Widows and Children of Warrant officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Discussion :—

Mr. Kearley 277
Captain Norton 279
Mr. Duke (*Plymouth*) 280
Mr. Levy (*Leicestershire, Loughborough*) 280
Mr. Brodrick 281

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present, House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

Mr. Levy .. 283
Mr. Kearley .. 284
Colonel Blundell (Lancashire, Ince) .. 285
Captain Norton .. 286
Mr. Brodrick .. 287
Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.) .. 288
Mr. Philipps (Pembrokeshire) .. 289
Mr. Flynn .. 290
Captain Norton .. 290

Motion made, and Question put—

"That a reduced sum of £1,484,900 be granted for the said Service"—(*Captain Norton.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 76; Noes, 127. (Division List No. 115.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

12. £188,500, Superannuation, Compensation, Compassionate Allowances and Gratuities.

Mr. Flynn .. 293
Mr. William Redmond .. 293
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 294
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) .. 295
Mr. Wolff (Belfast, E.) .. 297
Mr. William Redmond .. 297
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 298
Mr. Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) .. 299
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) .. 299

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT:—Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Discussion:—

Mr. John Redmond .. 300
Mr. Flynn .. 303
Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.) .. 304
Mr. Blake (Longford, S.) .. 304
Mr. J. W. Wilson (Worcestershire, N.) .. 305
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 305
Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) .. 309
Dr. Ambrose .. 310
Mr. Power .. 310
Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.) .. 311
Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) .. 312
Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.) .. 313
Mr. William Abraham (Cork, N.E.) .. 314
Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) .. 314
Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth) .. 315
Mr. William Redmond .. 315
Mr. Macdona (Southwark, Rotherhithe) .. 318

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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 148 ; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 116.)

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes after Twelve of the clock, till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 1st APRIL, 1901.

MR. SPEAKER'S INDISPOSITION.—The House being met, the Clerk Assistant at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, owing to indisposition—whereupon the Chairman of Ways and Means came to the Table, and after Prayers, took the Chair as Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order 321

TOOK THE OATH.—Two other Members took and subscribed the Oath 321

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].—Mr. Deputy Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Bills comprised in the List reported by the Chairman of Ways and Means as intended to originate in the House of Lords, the Standing Orders have been complied with in the following case, viz. :—Finchley and Hendon Tramways 321

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (Standing Orders applicable thereto complied with).—Mr. Deputy Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow 321

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (Standing Orders not previously Inquired into complied with).—Mr. Deputy Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 321

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 322

Great Central Railway Bill.—Read a second time, and committed .. 322

Metropolitan Railway Bill [BY ORDER].—Read a second time, and committed 322

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.—Lords Message [26th March], as to the appointment of a Joint Committee on London Underground Railways, considered. Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Resolution.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 322

Morton Carr Drainage Bill.—Order [27th March] that the Second Reading of the Morton Carr Drainage Bill be deferred till Friday, 19th April, read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 322

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Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Thames and Severn Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 322

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1).—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the county and urban district of Carlow, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney General for Ireland and Mr. Wyndham 322

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill.—"To "confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the county and urban district of Carlow," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 136] 322

Railway, etc., Bills.—Copy ordered, "of Report by the Board of Trade upon all the Railway, Canal, Tramway, Harbour and Tidal Waters, Electricity, Gas, and Water Bills, and Provisional Orders of Session 1901."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour*) 323

Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Gas Bill; Petersfield and Selsey Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 323

Private Bills (Group C).—Mr. Harwood reported from the Committee on Group C of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd April, at Three of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table 323

PETITIONS.

Agricultural Rates Act, 1896.—Petition from Runcorn, in favour of re-enactment; to lie upon the Table 323

Church Discipline.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Deptford and Worthing; to lie upon the Table 323

Coal Mines (Employment) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Oxenford; Elphingstone; Ormiston; Stanley Main; Bowers (No. 1); Kippax; Wheldale; Lofthouse; Snydale (No. 2); Junction; Silkstone Altofts; Emley; Stourton Grange; Haigh Moor; Gawber; Mitchell's Main; Monckton Main; Houghton Main; Wombwell Main; Manvers (No. 2); Oaklands; Allhallows; Low Stubbin (No. 1); and Tibshelf Collieries; to lie upon the Table 323

Elementary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation Schools).—Petition from Pembrey, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 324

Indapur Taluka of the Poona District—Revision Survey Settlement.—Petition from inhabitants of Indapur Taluka, for inquiry into their condition, and into the Revision Survey Settlement of their district; to lie upon the Table 324

Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Bangor; Durham; Hampton Wick; and Barton-upon-Irwell; to lie upon the Table 324

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Oxenford; Elphingstone; Ormiston; Snydale; Bowers (No. 1); Kippax; Wheldale; Lofthouse; Rothwell; Ardwarke Main; Junction; Snydale (No. 2); Silkstone; Altofts; Emley; Stourton Grange; Haigh Moor; Houghton

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Main; Wombwell Main; Monckton Main; Mitchell's Main; Low Stubbin (No. 1); Tibshelf; Manners (No. 2); and Oakland's Collieries; to lie upon the Table 324

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Carnoustie; Leicester; Maryport; Wrenthorpe; Islington; Barnes; Selkirk; Appledore; Lancashire and Cheshire; Longsight; and Llanfyllin; to lie upon the Table 324

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Garvald; Helmsdale; Lethnot; Monifieth (two); Broughty Ferry; Strathmartine; Maxwell; Mearns; Stornoway; Stirling; Edderton; Galashiels (six); Westerkirk; Maybole; Latheron; Meldrum; Fraserburgh; Selkirk; Grahamston; Selkirk (two); and Paisley; to lie upon the Table 324

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (ENGLAND).—Copy presented, of General Abstract of Marriages, Births, and Deaths registerd in England in the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 324

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Copy presented, of an Order dated 25th March, 1901, prohibiting the landing of animals from the Republic of Chile [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 325

BRITISH MUSEUM.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th March]; *Mr. John Morley*; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 113.] 325

SUPERANNUATIONS.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of Junior Inspector, attached to the Elementary Branch of the Board of Education, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the public service are required [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 325

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).—Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in England, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 31st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 114.] 325

SOUTH AFRICA.—Copy presented, of letter from Commandant Louis Botha to Lord Kitchener, dated 13th February, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of further correspondence relating to affairs in South Africa [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 326

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND) BILL.—Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the National Gallery (Purchase of Adjacent Land) Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Akers Douglas.*) .. 326

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Return ordered, "showing the number of applications for Orders, and the number of Orders which have been passed by the Light Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, in each year since the passing of the Light Railways Act, 1896;

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and also the number and amount of the loans which the Treasury has agreed to advance in each year under Section 4, and of the special advances under Section 5."—(*Mr. Bill.*) 326

ELECTRIC SUPPLY UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Return ordered, "relating to authorised Electricity Supply Undertakings in the United Kingdom belonging to Local Authorities for the year 1899, in the following form :—

1.	2.	3.	4.			5.	6.		7.	8.		9.		10.		11.		12.		13.		14.	
Name of Local Authority.	Act of Parliament or Provisional Order.	Area of supply.	Loans.			Total capital expended at end of year.	Receipts during year.		Expenditure on maintenance during year.	Gross profit or loss before providing for interest and sinking fund, &c.		Sinking fund.		Reserve fund.		Net profit or loss after providing for interest, sinking fund, &c.		Percentage of net profit or loss on total capital expenditure.		Price per Board of Trade unit.		Amount of energy generated and sold.	
			Amount authorised.	Amount borrowed.	Amount repaid.		Public lighting.	Sale of energy, and other receipts.		Profit.	Loss.	Provided during year.	Total at end of year.	Provided during year.	Total at end of year.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Authorised	Charged.	Generated (units).	(Sold units.)

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ELECTRIC SUPPLY UNDERTAKINGS (COMPANIES).—Return ordered, relating to authorised Electricity Supply Undertakings in the United Kingdom belonging to Companies for the year 1899, in the following form :—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.		10.	11.		12.		13.		14.		15.		16.
Name of Company.	Act of Parliament or Provisional Order.	Area of Supply.	Total capital authorised at end of year.	Total capital called up at end of year.	Total borrowing powers.	Total loan capital borrowed at end of year.	Total capital expended at end of year.	Receipts during year.		Expenditure on maintenance during year.	Reserve fund.		Depreciation fund.		Net profit or loss for year.		Price per Board of Trade unit.		Amount of energy generated and sold.		Dividend on ordinary shares during year.
								Public lighting.	Sale of energy, and other receipts.		Provided during year, and interest.	Total at end of year.	Provided during year, and interest.	Total at end of year.	Profit.	Loss.	Authorised.	Charged.	Un-generated.	Units sold.	

—(*Mr. Bartley.*) 327

NAVY AND MARINES.—Return ordered, of numbers of Commissioned Officers, Subordinate and Warrant Officers, Petty Officers, Men, and Boys of the Executive Branch, Engineer Branch, and other Branches of the Royal Navy, borne on the first day of April, 1900, excluding Pensioners and Reserves ; and a similar Return of the numbers of the Commissioned, Warrant, and Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Marine

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Forces, in the same form as that of Parliamentary Paper, No. 288, of Session 1898 :—

Executive Branch.					Engineer Branch.							Other Branches.						Royal Marines.					Grand Total
									Stokers.														
Commissioned Officers.	Subordinate and Warrant Officers, including Master's Assistants and Cadets.	Petty Officers.	Men.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Subordinate Officers, i.e., Engineer Students.	Warrant Officers.	Chief and other Engine Room artificers.	Petty Officers.	Men.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Subordinate and Warrant Officers, i.e., clerks, assistant clerks, and carpenters.	Petty Officers.	Men.	Kroomen.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	Total.	

—(*Sir John Colomb.*) 327

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SECURITIES.—Return ordered, of the amounts of British Government Securities held by the several Government Departments and other Public Offices on the 31st day of March, 1901, specifying whether held in England or Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 189, of Session 1900) :—

£2¾ per Cent. Consols.	£2¾ per Cents. (1905).	£2½ per Cents.	Local Loans £3 per Cent. Stock.	Guaranteed Land Stock.	War Stock and Bonds.	Other Securities.		
						Annuities for terms of years.	Local Loans Bonds.	Exchequer Bonds and Treasury Bills.

—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) 329

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do meet to-morrow at two of the clock."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 378
Mr. A. J. Balfour 379

Question put, and agreed to.

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LIGHT RAILWAYS:—
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 379
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 380

Bill to continue and amend the Light Railways Act, 1896, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Hanbury, and The Lord Advocate.

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Light Railways Bill.—"To continue and amend the Light Railways Act, 1896," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 137.]

FISHERIES (IRELAND):—
Mr. John Redmond 381
Bill to amend the Steam Trawling (Ireland) Act, 1889, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.

Fisheries (Ireland) Bill.—"To amend the Steam Trawling (Ireland) Act, 1889," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 138.]

DUBLIN CORPORATION.—Bill to amend sections twenty-three and twenty-six of the Dublin Corporation Act, 1900, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.

Dublin Corporations Bill.—"To amend sections twenty-three and twenty-six of the Dublin Corporation Act, 1900," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 139.] 382

Demise of the Crown Bill.—[SECOND READING.].—Order for Second Reading, read.
The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) .. 383
Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."
Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.) 390
Amendment proposed—
"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)
Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."
Discussion:—
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 394
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) 399
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) 401
Mr. Wallace (Perth) 404
The Solicitor General (Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University) .. 405
Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.) 406
Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet) 410
Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) 411
Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick) 412
Mr. Blake (Longford, S.) 412
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 414
Question put.
The House divided:—Ayes, 180; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 117.)
Point of Order, Mr. Broadhurst; Ruling, Mr. Deputy Speaker 419
The Question that the Bill be now read a second time was put from the the Chair and declared carried by the Deputy Speaker, amid cries of "The Noes have it" from the Nationalist Members.
Point of Order, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Ruling, Mr. Deputy Speaker 420
Main Question put.
The House divided:—Ayes, 155; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 118.)
Bill read a second time and committed for Thursday, 18th April.

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Army (Annual) Bill.—[Second Reading.].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Resolution proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Discussion :—
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 423

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present——

Mr. Ure (Linlithgowshire) 431
Colonel Blundell (Lancashire, Ince) 433
Captain Norton (Newington, W.) 433
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) .. 435
Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) 438
Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) 438

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Thursday, 18th April.

Isolation Hospitals Bill.—[Second Reading.]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Discussion :—
Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.) 439
The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 441
Sir Walter Foster 442
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 444
Mr. Bill (Staffordshire, Leek) 444
Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) 445
The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 445
Sir John Dorrington (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) 445
Mr. Tomlinson (Preston) 445

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

SUPPLY [29th March].—Resolutions reported.

Navy Estimates, 1901–2.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,023,100, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Works, Buildings, and Repairs, at Home and Abroad, including the cost of Superintendence, Purchase of Sites, Grants in Aid, and other charges connected therewith, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £359,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of various Miscellaneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £790,900, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Half Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay, to Officers of the Navy and Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

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4. "That a sum, not exceeding £340,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Civil Pensions and Gratuities, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £219,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Medical Services, including the cost of Medical Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £16,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Martial Law, including the cost of Naval Prisons at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £100,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Educational Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £65,800, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Scientific Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £119,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £218,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Sundry Miscellaneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,485,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals, and the In-Pensioners thereof; of Out-Pensions; of the Maintenance of Lunatics for whom Pensions are not drawn; and of Gratuities awarded in Commutation and in lieu of Pensions; of Rewards for Meritorious Services; of Victoria Cross Pensions; and of Pensions, etc., to the Widows and Children of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £188,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances and Gratuities, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902." 446

Resolutions agreed to.

Cremation Bill [**Lords**].—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.

Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 447

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Tomlinson (*Preston*) 448
Mr. Ritchie 448
Mr. Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 449

Question put, and agreed to ; Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

" That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

Mr. Jeffreys (*Hampshire*), *N.* 450
Mr. Henry Hobhouse (*Somersetshire, E.*) 451
Mr. Tomlinson 451
Colonel Slaney-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport.*) 452
Mr. Seton-Karr (*St. Helens*) 452

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 137 ; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 119.)

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill—[SECOND READING.]—

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

" That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Banbury 455
Mr. Seton-Karr 457
Mr. Parker Smith 458
Mr. Tomlinson 459

Question put, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

The House divided :—Ayes, 150 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 120.)

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

" That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Sir John Colomb.*) .. ..

Mr. Jeffreys 461
Mr. Ritchie 462

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 75 ; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 121.)

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House for Thursday, 18th April.

House adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1901.

The House met at Two of the clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Gravesend Gas Bill—Neath Harbour Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 465

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PRIVATE BILLS.—Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 129, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any Documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 465

NEW STANDING ORDER (PETITIONS AGAINST RIVER CONSERVANCY BILLS).

**The Chairman of Ways and Means* (*Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith*) 465

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the following be a new Standing Order to follow Standing Order 134C":—

134D. Ordered, Where any owner, lessee, or occupier, or where any conservancy or other authority charged with the control of river or other waters, petitions against a Bill alleging that under its provisions any water or water supply of which they may legally avail themselves will be diminished or injuriously affected, it shall be competent to the Referees on Private Bills, if they think fit, to admit the petitioners to be heard against the Bill or any part thereof.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 466
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 466

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Order be a Standing Order of the House.

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 466

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bilston, Buxton, Leicester (two), Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Neath, and Newton-in-Mackerfield, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bilston, Buxton, Leicester (two), Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Neath, and Newton-in-Mackerfield," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 140.] 467

Leatherhead Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 467

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.—Return ordered, "relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings in the United Kingdom, other than those of Local authorities, for the year ended the 31st day of December, 1900 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 143, of Session 1900.)"—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 467

GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Return ordered, "relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings in the United Kingdom belonging to Local Authorities for the year ended the 25th day of March, 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 144, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 467

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ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS.—Copies ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill:"

"Of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill:"

"Of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill:"

"And of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 467

Dublin Corporation Bill.—Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Dublin Corporation Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—*Mr. Wyndham.*) 467

Electric Lighting (London) Bill.—Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Electric Lighting (London) Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills. —(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 468

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.—Petitions from Woolwich, in favour of extension if re-enacted; to lie upon the Table 468

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Seymour; Beighton; Waterloo Main; Dunnikier; Dysart; Oldham; Dennyloanhead; Banknock; Wharncliffe Silkstone; Hoyland Silkstone; Wath Main; Batley; Denby Grange; Wakefield Manor; Foxholes; Whitwood Mere; Netherton; Good Hope; Bowers (No. 3); Newland; Hightown; Clifton; Blackrod; Cadely Main; Roundwood; Heanor; Old Thorncliffe (No. 2); Loscoe; and Woolley Moor Collieries; to lie upon the Table 468

EDUCATION (YOUNG CHILDREN) (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Aberdeen and Dundee; to lie upon the Table .. 468

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS). —Petitions for alteration of Law, from Holywell; Clayton; Heckmondwike; and Barrow-in-Furness; to lie upon the Table 469

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petition from Wimborne, in favour; to lie upon the Table 469

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Beighton; Clifton; Seymour; Dunnikier; Dysart; Dennyloanhead. Banknock; Wharncliffe Silkstone; Wath Main Batley (No. 1); Chickenley Heath; Soothill Wood; Newland; Bowers (No. 3); Good Hope; Netherton; Whitwood Mere; Foxholes; Denby Grange; East Cannock (Nos. 1, 2, and 3); Cannock Old Coppice; Wyrley; Hightown Liversedge Loscoe; Cannock Chase (two); Great Britain; Leacroft; Cannock Chase (Nos. 2, 3, and 5); West Cannock; Brereton; Blackrod; Cadeby Main; Roundwood; Heanor; Kiveton Park; and Woolley Moor Collieries; to lie upon the Table .. 469

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from St. Helens (two); Chichester; Sutton; Portsmouth; Bourne;

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Haslingden ; Coedpoeth (three) ; Rhosymedre ; Milborne Port ; Chatham (four) ; Manchester (four) ; Hardwick ; Gornal Wood ; Mountain Ash ; Billinghay (two) ; Nottingham ; New Brompton ; Kilmarnock ; Dundee ; Cefn Coed ; and Poplar ; to lie upon the Table. 469

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Birsay and Harray ; Aberdeen ; Lintrathen ; Hawick ; Stewarton ; Burntisland ; Dysart ; Gallatown ; Kirkcaldy ; Dunblane and Lecroft ; Crieff ; and Edinburgh ; to lie upon the Table. 469

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAWL VESSELS (PROSECUTIONS).—Return [presented 22nd March] to be printed. [No. 116.] 469

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.—Return presented, relative thereto [Ordered 7th March ; *Mr. Henry Hobhouse*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 117.] 470

POLICE (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Forty-third Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, being for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 470

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889, (ORDNANCE).—Copy presented of University Court Ordinance No. V. (Glasgow, No. 1) (Regulations for degrees in Science in Agriculture) [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 118.] 470

TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS).—Copy presented, of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 470

COAL EXPORTS, ETC.—Return presented, relative thereto [Ordered 18th February ; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 119.] 470

RAILWAY, ETC., BILLS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st April ; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 120]. 470

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Thames Conservancy.—General Report and Accounts of the Conservators for 1900 [by Act] ; to be printed. [No. 121.] 470

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATION.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs) ; Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 470

REINFORCEMENTS DESPATCHED SINCE THE 1ST JANUARY.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 471

REPORTED DEMAND BY LORD KITCHENER FOR FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick .. 471

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 471

ALLEGED BRITISH RECRUITING IN GERMANY AND ITALY.—Question, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 472

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East Yorkshire Regiment—Field Allowances.—Question, Mr. Hermon-Hodge (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 472

Army Reform—The Government Proposals.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 473

Inspector General of Recruiting's Report.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 473

Volunteer Artillery Armaments.—Question, Mr. Holland (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 473

Attestation of Recruits—Age Regulations.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 474

Cavalry Commissions—Physical Qualifications.—Question, Mr. Abel Smith (Hertfordshire, Hertford); Answer, Lord Stanley 474

Pimlico Army Clothing Department—Overtime.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 475

Changes in the King's Regulations.—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 475

H.M.S. "Thunderer"—Gun Disablements.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 475

Indian Irrigation Scheme.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 476

Indian Finance.—Question, Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 476

China—Siege of Tientsin—Heroism of Mr. James Watts.—Question, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 477

Manchuria—Russo-Chinese Agreement.—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 477

Royal Proclamation against Vice and Immorality.—Question, Mr. H. D. Greene (Shrewsbury); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 478

Fishery Disturbances at St. Ives.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 478

Leicester Vaccination Prosecutions.—Question, Sir John Rolleston (Leicester); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 478

Engine Explosion on Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson 480

Nottingham Lace Market—Telegraph Facilities.—Question, Mr. Bond (Nottingham, E.)]; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 480

Telephonic Arrangements in the Eastern Counties.—Question, Sir Harry Bullard (Norwich); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 481

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HYDE SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Ashton (Bedfordshire, Luton); Answer, The Vice President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 482

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SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY CLASS FEES.—Question, Mr. Thomas Shaw (Hawick Burghs); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 483

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 484

IRISH COUNTY COURT JUDGES' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 485

IRISH LAND COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 486

CLAREMORRIS UNION—OWEN COYNE'S HOLDING.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 486

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MONAGHAN QUARTER SESSIONS—SPIRIT LICENCE TO MR. LESLIE.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 487

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IRISH LAND PURCHASE—THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.—Question, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 490

SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS—PROPOSED COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Gordon (Elgin and Nairn); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 491

NEW EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 492

REX v. COCKERTON.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 492

THE NEW CODE—HIGHER ELEMENTARY MINUTE.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 492

PROPOSAL TO FILE ANSWERS IN THE LIBRARY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 493

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NEW BILLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—Bill to amend the law relating to the qualification and tenure of office of Medical Officers of Health, Inspectors of Nuisances, and Sanitary Inspectors, and to provide for superannuation allowances to such Officers and Inspectors, and for contribution towards such allowances by such Officers and Inspectors, and to make other relative provisions, ordered to be brought in by Sir Francis Powell, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Talbot, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, and Sir Michael Foster.

Public Health Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the qualification and tenure of office of Medical Officers of Health, Inspectors of Nuisances, and Sanitary Inspectors, and to provide for superannuation allowances to such Officers and Inspectors, and for contribution towards such allowances by such Officers and Inspectors, and to make other relative provisions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 22nd April, and to be printed. [Bill 141.] 493

PETROLEUM.—Bill to amend The Petroleum Act, 1879, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ure, The Master of Elibank, Mr. Harold Reckitt, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Compton Rickett, Mr. Cross, Mr. M'Killop, and Mr. Trevelyan.

Petroleum Bill.—"To amend The Petroleum Act, 1879," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 23rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 142.] 494

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE (EASTER).—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House at its rising this day do adjourn till Thursday, 18th April."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 494
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 497

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words 'Thursday, 18th,' in order to add the words 'Monday, 15th.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'Thursday, 18th,' stand part of the Question."

Discussion:—

Mr. Stuart Wortley (*Sheffield, Hallam*) 498
Mr. James Lowther (*Kent, Thanet*) 499
Mr. Herbert Lewis (*Flint Boroughs*) 499
Colonel Blundell (*Lancashire, Ince*) 500
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 500
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 501
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 504
Mr. Leamy (*Kildare, N.*) 506

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 156; Noes, 88. (Division List No. 122.)

Main Question again proposed.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—CONDUCT OF WAR—TERMS OF SETTLEMENT:—

Mr. Thomas Shaw (*Hawick Burghs*) 509
Mr. Arthur Lee (*Hampshire, Fareham*) 521
Mr. Pirie (*Aberdeen, N.*) 524
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) 527

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Mr. Bell (Derby) 531
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 548
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 550

EDUCATION—REX V. COCKERTON :—

Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) 551
The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 552
Mr. Duffy (Galway,S.) 552

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 185 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 123.)

Main Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House at its rising this day do adjourn till Thursday, 18th April.

EVENING SITTING.

STANDING COMMITTEES (AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 50).—Standing Order 50 read :—" That all Bills which shall have been committed to one of the said Standing Committees shall, when reported to the House, be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a Committee of the whole House : Provided that the provisions of the Standing Order ' Consideration of a Bill as amended ' shall not apply to a Bill reported to the House by a Standing Committee."

Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 555
Mr. Tomlinson (Preston) 558

Motion made, and Question proposed—

" That Standing Order 50 be amended by leaving out from the word ' Provided ' to the end, in order to add the words, ' only that all Bills reported from a Standing Committee, whether amended or not, shall be considered on Report by the House without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof desire to postpone its consideration or a motion be made to re-commit the Bill.' "—(*Sir Francis Sharp Powell.*)

Discussion :—

Colonel Milward (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon) 559
Mr. Sydney Buxton 560
The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 561
Mr. John Redmond 563
Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 564
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 567
Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) 568
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 568
Mr. Richards (Finsbury, E.) 569
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 570
Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 570
Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston) 571
Mr. Joseph Nolan (Louth, S.) 572

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Question put, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Standing Order."

The House divided :—Ayes, 46 ; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 124.)

Question put, " That those words be there added to the Standing Order."

The House divided :—Ayes, 85 ; Noes, 41. (Division List No. 125.)

Ordered, That all Bills which shall have been committed to one of the said Standing Committees shall, when reported to the House, be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a Committee of the Whole House : Provided only, that all Bills reported from a Standing Committee, whether amended or not, shall be considered on report by the House without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof desire to postpone its consideration or a motion be made to re-commit the Bill.

CHINA CRISIS—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA :—

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 575

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present——

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett 578
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 579

Motion made, and Question proposed—
" That no settlement of the present Crisis in China will be satisfactory to this House that does not completely exclude Russian military and political control from Manchuria."—(*Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett.*)

Mr. Yerburgh (*Chester*) 581
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 585

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Adjourned at one minute after Twelve of the Clock till Thursday, 18th April.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.—Several other Members took and subscribed the Oath .. 589

NOTICE OF MOTION.—Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 589

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 589

Bury Corporation Tramways Bill ; Great Northern Railway Bill ; Honley Urban District Council (Gas) Bill ; London Bridge Widening Bill ; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill ; Tees Valley Water Board Bill ; as amended, considered ; to be read the third time 589

Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [Lords] ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Dearne Valley Junction Railways) Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill ; Read a second time, and committed 589

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Petition for additional Provision ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.. 590

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Private Bills (Group F).—Ordered, that the said Samuel Dashper Brooming, Herbert Banbury, John James Edgcumbe Venning, John White, Richard Samson, Herbert Y. Adye, and Wodehouse Dillon Richardson do attend the Committee on Group F of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 590

PETITIONS.

Beer Bill.—Petition from Chipping Norton, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 590

Burial Places (Exemption from Rates) (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Aberdeen, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 590

Coal Mines (Employment) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Bunker's Hill ; Waterloo ; Camerton ; Chequerbent ; Norton Green ; Elsecar ; Leigh ; Tyldesley ; Baddesley Ensor ; Exhall ; Ansley ; Haunchwood ; Bedworth ; Stockingford (two) ; Walsgrave-on-Sowe ; Chilvers Coton ; Bell Green ; Nuneaton (two) ; Longford ; Dearham ; Cotes Park ; Tong ; Ravensthorpe ; Hucknall Torkard ; Bestwood ; Linby ; Newstead ; Normanton ; Riddings ; Pollington ; Morton ; Clackmannan ; Alloa and Devon ; Alva ; Tillicoultry ; Swallow Wood ; Rotherham ; Denaby Main ; Morton (No. 6) ; Newton ; and Birchwood Collieries ; to lie upon the Table 591

Education (Young Children) (School Attendance) (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Aberdeen, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 591

Elementary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation) Schools.—Petitions in favour, from Kingswinford ; Tottenham ; and Colchester ; to lie upon the Table 591

Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation Bill.—Petition in favour, from Folkestone ; Meriden ; Heath Town ; West Lancashire ; Bury ; and Fordingbridge ; to lie upon the Table 591

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Petition from Penzance, against ; to lie upon the Table 591

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petition of Scottish Trade Protection Society, against ; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Newton Lodge ; Waterloo ; Dearham ; Camerton ; Chequerbent ; Tyldesley ; Leigh ; Tupton (No. 4) ; Sheepbridge (No. 1) ; Pleasley ; Chesterfield ; Clay Cross (No. 3) ; Elsecar ; Swanwick (two) ; Norton Green ; Heage ; Norton (No. 6) ; Pollington ; Morton ; South Normanton ; Cotes Park ; Riddings ; Bunker's Hall ; Birchwood ; Sandersfoot ; Bowling ; Tong ; Batley West End ; Aldwarke (No. 2) ; Rotherham ; Denaby Main ; Ravensthorpe ; Bestwood ; Linby ; Newstead ; Ansley ; Bedworth ; Haunchwood ; Ansley Hall ; Chilvers Coton ; Nuneaton (two) ; Walsgrave on Sowe (two) ; Exhall ; Baddesley Ensor ; Stockingford (two) ; Bell Green ; Longford ; Hucknall Torkard ; Clackmannan ; Alva ; Tillicoultry ; and Alloa and Devon Collieries ; to lie upon the Table 592

Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill.—Petition against from Montrose and Forfar ; to lie upon the Table 592

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Crewe and Stapleford ; to lie upon the Table 592

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SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Leeds, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from St. George's East; Smethwick; North Birmingham; Taunton; Glasgow (two); Pill; Catford; Bromley; Durham; Kirkmabreck; Thorpe Hesley; Bolton; Glasgow; Dudley; Reading; Sheffield (five); Kings Nympton; Northam (two); Midsomer Norton; Dewsbury; Ilkley; Ravensthorpe; Common Side; Willaston; Coppenhall; Beeston; Rathen; Edinburgh (two); Taunton (two); St. Pancras; Lumphanan; Bilton; Wath-on-Dearne; Stocksbridge; Bromley (two); Liverpool; Salford; Bolton; Lambeth; Stalybridge; London (two); and Heckmondwike; to lie upon the Table 592

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Milnathort; Clackmannan; Dollar; Insch; Dalserf; Aberdeen; Turriff (two); Fintray; Kininmouth; Ellon; Alves; Edzell (two); Elgin; Burghead; Alloa; Tongue; Stonehouse; and Perth; to lie upon the Table 592

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petition from Abernethy, against; to lie upon the Table 592

WORKMEN'S HOUSES TENURE BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table 593

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) RULE.—Paper [presented 28th Fedruary] to be printed. [No. 122.] 593

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) DIETARIES.—Paper [presented 28th February] to be printed. [No. 123.] 593

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).—The following Papers, presented by Command of His Majesty during the Easter Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August, 1896:—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series),—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2568 to 2572;

2. Trade Reports (Miscellaneous Series),—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, Nos. 549 and 550;

3. Egypt (No. 1, 1901),—Copy of Reports by His Majesty's Agent and Consul General on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1900;

4. China (No. 3, 1901),—Copy of Further Correspondence respecting events at Peking [in continuation of China (No. 4, 1900)];

5. Army (Military Works),—Copy of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Barracks Act, 1890 and Military Works Acts, 1897 and 1899;

6.—Army (Recruiting),—Copy of Annual Report of the Inspector General of Recruiting for 1900;

7. Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897,—Copy of Third Report to the Secretary for Scotland of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Board;

8. National Gallery, etc. (Scotland),—Copy of Seventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufacturers in Scotland, being for the year ending 30th September, 1900;

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9. Explosions (Nobel's Explosives Factory at Ardeer, Ayrshire),—Copy of Report by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an Explosion which occurred in one of the dynamite cartridge huts at the Factory of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, at Ardeer, near Stevenston, in the county of Ayr, on the 29th January, 1901;

10. Explosions (Chilworth Gunpowder Factory),—Copy of Report by Major A .Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an Explosion which occurred in the corning house at the Factory of the Chilworth Gunpowder Company, Limited, at Chilworth, Surrey, on the 12th February, 1901.
Ordered that the said papers do lie upon the Table 594

TREATY SERIES (No. 4, 1901).—Copy presented, of Agreement additional to the Convention between the United Kingdom and France, of 8th December, 1882, relative to the Exchange of Telegraph Money Orders between the two countries. Signed at Paris, 10th October, 1900. Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 16th March, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 594

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2573 to 2575 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 594

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Crofters' Commission, being for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 594

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.—Copy presented, of Minute sanctioning the Subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Act, for the City and County Borough of Belfast (Fifth Minute), dated 21st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 595

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).—Return presented, relative thereto [Ordered 8th March; *Mr. M'Crae*]; to lie upon the Table 595

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES).—Annual Account presented, for the year 1899–1900, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 124] 595

LEAD POISONING.—Copy presented, relative thereto [Address 19th March; *Mr. Jesse Collings*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 126] 595

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT) (WAREHOUSES IN FACTORIES OR WORKSHOPS WHERE BRIGHT OR BURNISHED METAL GOODS ARE MADE).—Copy presented, of Order, dated 6th September, 1900, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 65 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and Section 39 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, permitting the Warehouses in Factories and Workshops where Bright or Burnished Metal Goods are made to be treated as separate Factories or Workshops, as far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons, and women [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 595

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.—Accounts presented, for the year 1900, with an Account of extraordinary Works executed other than the general Repairs for the same period [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 595

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POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Cambridge creating a new Polling District in the Eastern Division of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 595

LOAN FUND BOARD (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Sixty-third Annual Report, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 596

AGRARIAN OFFENCES (PROVINCES) (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Return by Provinces of Agrarian Offences in Ireland for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 596

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report on Agriculture, for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. Copy presented, of Return of Prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 596

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd April; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 127.] 596

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158A]; referred to the Committee on the Bill 596

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT ACT, 1900, NO. V.). Copy presented, of the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1900, No. V. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 596

QUEENSLAND (THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS ACT, AND THE ELECTIONS ACTS 1885 TO 1898 AMENDMENT ACT OF 1900).—Copy presented, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Act, 1885 to 1898 Amendment Act of 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 569

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.—Return ordered, "for each of the three years ending the 8th day of August, 1900, of—1. The number of Petitions for Private Bills deposited in the Private Bill Office; (2) the number of Private Bills read a first time in the House of Commons; (3) the number of Private Bills first considered in the House of Lords under Standing Order 79, brought from the Lords; (4) the number of Private Bills first considered in the House of Lords under Standing Order 79, brought from the Lords; (5) the number of Private Bills (Estate, etc.) originated in and brought from the Lords; (6) the number of Private Bills decided upon by Committees on Opposed Bills; (7) the number of Private Bills treated as Unopposed and referred to the Chairman of Ways and Means; (8) the number of Private Bills that received the Royal Assent: distinguishing in all cases between Bills which affected England and Bills which affected Scotland, and Bills which affected Ireland, respectively (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 198, of Session 1898)."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means*) 597

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.—Return ordered, "showing (1) the Rates of Duties, Taxes, or Imposts collected by Imperial Officers; (2) the Quantities or Amounts taxed; (3) the Gross Receipts derived from each Duty; and (4) the net Receipts and Appropriations thereof in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901; and (1) the aggregate Gross Receipts derived from all such Duties, Taxes, or Imposts under the principal heads of Revenue; (2) the aggregate net Receipts; (3) the Charges of Collection; and (4) the

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Produce, after deducting these Charges, in each of the ten years ending the 31st day of March, 1901." "And, Notes to show any changes in the Taxes, Duties, and Imposts consequent upon the acceptance of the Budget Proposals of 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 284, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Goddard*) 597

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1901–2 (INTERMEDIATE DUTIES ON SUGAR).—Copy ordered, "of Statement relating to Intermediate Duties on Sugar made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer when opening the Budget."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 125] 598

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, the First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 598

TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT ASSETS.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies; Answer, the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 598

"THE TIMES" AND SIR ALFRED MILNER'S RETURN.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 599

RHODESIA—CHINESE LABOUR.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 599

JANSENVILLE TOWN GUARD.—Question, Mr. Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 600

SOLDIERS' REMITTANCES FROM SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 600

MOUNTED INFANTRY TRAINING—SCOUTING DUTIES.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 601

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 601

MARK IV. BULLETS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 602

THE WAR OFFICE AND INVENTIONS.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 602

WHITLEY RIFLE RANGE—FACILITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Mr. Robson (South Shields); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 602

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH—DRILL SHED.—Question, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 603

CADETS' SWORD EXERCISE.—Question, Mr. Bartley; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 604

NAVAL LIEUTENANTS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold Forster, Belfast, W.) 604

CUTTING OF SUBMARINE CABLES IN TIME OF WAR.—Question, Sir John Colomb; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 604

CHINA—THE NANKING AND WUCHANG VICEROYS.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 605

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 605

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 606

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 606

CATTLE DISEASE REGULATIONS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Macartney (Antrim, S.); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 607

BALLINASLOE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 607

ENNIS—PROPOSED BONDED WAREHOUSE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 608

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 608

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Colonel Milward (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Dillon, Mr. T. M. Healy, and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lyme Regis); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and Sir M. Hicks Beach 609

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).—

Motion made, and Question put—

> "That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if under consideration at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the provisions of the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 326; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 126.)

WAYS AND MEANS.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

THE BUDGET STATEMENT:—

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.*) 615

SUGAR—CUSTOMS.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That there shall be charged on and after the nineteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and one, the following Customs import duties:—

	The Cwt s.	 d.
Sugar of a polarisation exceeding 98 degrees ... ... — ..	4	2
Sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 76 degrees	2	0
and intermediate duties varying between 4s. 2d. and 2s. on sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 98 and exceeding 76 degrees.		

Molasses (including all sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be tested by the polariscope) 2 0
Glucose 1 8

The oz.
Saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use 1 3

And that duty shall be charged in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1876, on goods containing as a part or ingredient thereof any article liable to any of the above duties.

And that the exemption under the same Schedule from the duty on plums or plums preserved in sugar shall cease."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Discussion :—

Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 653
Colonel Milward (*Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon*) 665
Mr. Kearley (*Devonport*) 667
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 671
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 675
Sir Edgar Vincent (*Exeter*) 680
Mr. Robson (*South Shields*) 684
Mr. Beckett (*Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby*) 689
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 693
Mr. John Wilson (*Falkirk Burghs*) 702
Sir Christopher Furness (*Hartlepool*) 706
Mr. James Reid (*Greenock*) 710
Mr. Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 711
Mr. D. A. Thomas (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 715
Mr. Wylie (*Dumbartonshire*) 718
Mr. Holland (*Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham*) 720
Sir M. Hicks Beach 722
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 727
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 729
Sir William Harcourt 730
Mr. Renwick (*Newcastle-on-Tyne*) 731
Mr. Kearley 731
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 732
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 734
Mr. Guthrie (*Tower Hamlets, Bow*) 736

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Major Jameson.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour 736
Sir William Harcourt 736
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 737

Question put and negatived. Original Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 127.)

Resolved, That there shall be charged on and after the nineteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and one, the following customs import duties :—

The Cwt.
s. *d.*
Sugar of a polarisation exceeding 98 degrees 4 2

	The Cwt.
	s. d.
Sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 76 degrees	2 0
and intermediate duties varying between 4s. 2d. and 2s. on sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 98 and exceeding 76 degrees.	
Molasses (including all sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be tested by the polariscope)	2 0
Glucose	1 8
	The Oz.
Saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use)..	1 3

And that duty shall be charged in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule from the Customs Tariff Act, 1876, on goods containing as a part or ingredient thereof any article liable to any of the above duties.

And that the exemption under the same Schedule from the duty on plums of plums preserved in sugar shall cease.

COAL.

2. Motion made, and Question put, "That there shall be charged on and after the nineteenth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and one, the following customs export duty on Coal :—

	Per Ton.
	s. d.
Coal (including culm, coke, cinders, and manufactured fuel)	1 0"

—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 171 ; Noes, 127. (Division List No. 128.)

Resolutions to be reported.

LOAN.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That, towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and two, sums not exceeding sixty million pounds may be raised by all or any of the following methods :—

(a) by means of the creation of two and three-quarter per cent. Consolidated stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888 ; or

(b) by means of the issue of further War Stock or War Bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900 ; or

(c) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills ; or

(d) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds ;

and that the principal of, and interest on, any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 744

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Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. John Redmond*)—put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill, considered in Committee; Committee report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at a quarter after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill. [BY ORDER.]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Lonsdale (*Armagh, Mid*) 745
Mr. Archdale (*Fermanagh, N.*) 747

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion:—

Mr. De Tatton Egerton (*Cheshire, Knutsford*) 747
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 748
The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.*) .. 749
Mr. Carvill (*Newry*) 749
Colonel Saunderson (*Armagh, N.*) 753
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 753
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 754
Sir James Haslett (*Belfast, N.*) 756
Mr. Daly (*Monaghan, S.*) 757
Colonel Welby (*Taunton*) 758
Mr. Eugene Wason (*Clackmannan and Kinross*) 759
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 759
The President of the Board of Trade (*Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central*) 760
Mr. Nolan (*Louth, S.*) 760

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 114; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 129.)

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

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PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—Great Central Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 765

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Geport from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Order shave not been complied with, viz. :—London United Tramways.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.. 765

Gravesend Gas Bill; Neath Harbour Bill.—Read the third time, and passed .. .. ~ 765

Midland Railway Bill.—As amended, considered; A Clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 765

Taff Vale Railway Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 765

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—London and India Docks (New Works) Bill; Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time. 765

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Arlesey Gas Bill [Lords]; Folkestone Corporation Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time. 766

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Berwickshire County Town Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 766

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next. 766

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PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next 766

Dorking Gas Bill.—Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 767

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY).—Petition, and Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cohen and Mr. John Burns 767

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDERS.—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under the Military Lands Act, 1892, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Brodrick and Lord Stanley .. 767

Military Lands Provisional Orders Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under the Military Lands Act, 1892," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 143.] 767

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 3).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Billericay (Rural), Drighlington, Heston and Isleworth, Sunderland, and York, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Billericay (Rural), Drighlington, Heston and Isleworth, Sunderland, and York," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 144.] .. 767

Ilkeston and Heanor Water Board Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 768

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.—Petition from Rochdale, against re-enactment; to lie upon the Table 768

BEER BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Chichester; Nacton; Bentley; Levington; Southampton; Bucklesham; Fulkenham; Thorington; and Staffordshire; to lie upon the Table 768

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Bothwell, in favour; to lie upon the Table 768

BURIAL GROUNDS (LOANS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour from Bothwell; and Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland; to lie upon the Table 768

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Hornsey, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 768

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Bickershaw; Bamfurlong; Digby; New London; Sutton; New Summit; Bentinck; Plumtree; Eastwood; Silver Hil (Nos. 1 and 2); Butcherwood; Annesley; New Hucknall; Dunston; St. John's; Staveley; Renishaw Park; Parkall; Hartington; Norwood; Muirkirk; Talk o' th' Hill; Sandford; Hill; Hanley (No. 3); Bulwell; Pendleton; Cinder Hill; Broxtowe;

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Hartshead; Heage; Topcliffe; East Ardsley; Robin Hood; Thornhill; Old Roundwood; Shaw Cross; Bruntcliffe; Mirfield; Whitwick (No. 6); Whitwick (Nos. 1 and 2); Coleorton; Snibstone (No. 2); South Leicestershire (No. 1); South Leicestershire (No. 2); Ibstock (No. 1); Ibstock (No. 2); Nailstonewood; Ellistown (No. 1); Little Hulton; Marlpool; Pentrich; Codnor; Ripley; Stanley; Ilkeston; Marchay; Turton Moor; Micklefield; Halton; Amington; Tame Valley; Hockley Hall; Birch Coppice; Alvecote; South Kirkby; Featherstone; Kippax; Glasshoughton; Ackton Hall; and Allerton Silkstone Collieries; to lie upon the Table 767

EDUCATION (YOUNG CHILDREN) (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 769

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law; from Stockton-on-Tees; and Brighouse; to lie upon the Table 769

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 769

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Sheerness; Chesterfield; Godstone; Workington; Wilmslow; and Birmingham; to lie upon the Table 769

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from St. Mabe, against; to lie upon the Table 769

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Digby; New London; Sutton; New Summit; Burntcliffe; Bentinck; Plumtree; Silver Hill (Nos. 1 and 2); Butcherwood; New Hucknall; Annesley; Bamfurlong; Hindley Green; Muirkirk; Parkhall; Renishaw Park; St. John's; Staveley; Dunston; Norwood; Talk o' th' Hill; Sandford Hill; Hanley (No. 3); Pendleton; Broxtowe; Cinder Hill; Bulwell; Hartshead; Topcliffe; East Ardsley; Robin Hood; Thornhill; Old Roundwood; Shaw Cross; Mirfield; Dillwyn; Gwendraeth; Crosshands; Cawdor; Gellicendrim; Ammanford (No. 1); Emlyn; Brynhenllyn; Rhos; Isllwyn; Eastwood; Ibstock (No. 1); Ibstock (No. 2); South Leicestershire (No. 2); Snibston (No. 2); Coleorton; Nailstonewood; Ellistown (No. 1); Ellistown (No. 2); Whitwick (No. 6); Whitwick (Nos. 2 and 5); Pentrich; Ripley; Stanley; Ilkeston; Little Hulton; Turton Moor; Halton; Micklefield; Whateley; Kingsbury; Alvecote; Birch Coppice; Amington; South Kirby; Featherstone; Glasshoughton; Skelmersdale; Marchay; Marlpool; Ackton Hall; Kippax; and Allerton Silkstone Collieries; to lie upon the Table 769

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition, from Samuel Crossland and others, in favour; to lie upon the Table.. 770

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions, in favour, from Sheffield (six); Helensburgh; Coupar Angus; Abram; Cardiff (seven); United Free Church of Scotland; Highgate; Catrine; Coatbridge; Meersbrook Park; Birmingham; Nottingham; Lochs; Stamford Hill; Midsomer Norton; Llantrissant (four); Morley (two); Middlesbrough; (three); Landovery (four); Crompton; Blackburn; Leeds; Launceston; Great Grimsby (four); Great Coates; Glossop; Midsomer Norton; Brixton; Calderhead; New Monkland; Waltham; Thorner; Cleethorpes (two); Denaby Main (two); Taunton (three); Stainland; and Aberdeen; to lie upon the Table 770

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Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions, in favour, from Straiton; Bonhill; Coupar Angus; Clunie; Bendochy; Kinnaird; Coldstream; Old Monkland; Dailly; Colmonell; Slamannan; Cadder; Muiravonside; Kirkmichael; Prestonkirk; Unst; Prestonpans; Nairn (two); Blairgowrie (two); Sleat; Westray; Stronsay (two); Lerwick; Tingwall; Edina; Barry; Barvas; Ladybank; Newport; Fraserburgh; Queensferry; Dumbarton; Cumnock; Dunipace; Old Cumnock; Urquhart; Maryculter; Aberlour; Cambuslang Marykirk; Johnstone; Bothwell; and Port Glasgow; to lie upon the Table 770

Sovereign's Oath on Accession Bill.—Petitions, against, from Hampstead; and St. John's Wood; to lie upon the Table 770

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Revenue (Collection of Taxes).—Return [presented 18th April] to be printed. [No. 129.] 771

Greek Loan of 1898.—Account presented, up to 31st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 130.] 771

Egyptian Guaranteed Loan of 1885.—Account presented, up to 31st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 771

Crown's Nominee Account.—Abstract account presented, of Receipts and Payments of the Treasury Solicitor, in the year ended 31st December, 1900, in the Administration of Estates on behalf of the Crown, and Alphabetical List of Intestates' Estates in respect of which Letters of Administration were granted to the Treasury Solicitor as Crown's Nominee, and of other cases (partly Intestacies, etc.), in which accounts were opened in the Books of the Treasury Solicitor in the same year in respect of moneys received by him as Crown's Nominee [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 131.] 771

Railways Abandonment.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158A]; referred to the Committee on the Bill 771

Polling Districts (City of Wakefield).—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the City of Wakefield, altering certain Polling Districts in the City [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 771

Education (Scotland).—Copy presented, of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 19th April, 1901, amending the terms of Article 89 (b) of the Code of 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 771

Paper Laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.—Charitable Endowments (London).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 132.] 772

QUESTIONS.

South African War—Finance of the War.—Question, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 772

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SURRENDERS AT LINDLEY, ETC.—ARMY ORDER, 11TH APRIL.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.), and Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 772

LORD METHUEN'S ILLNESS.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 773

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 774

GENERAL COLVILE'S CASE—PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. BRODRICK AND MR. DOUGLAS.—Mr. Brodrick 774

Mr. Douglas (Lanarkshire, N.W.) 775

CHINESE LABOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore), and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 776

REPORTED SHOOTING BY THE BOERS OF MR. WESSEL, PEACE ENVOY.—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, Mr. Brodrick .. 777

DISPOSAL OF CAPTURED CATTLE.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 777

OBSERVANCE OF PAROLE.—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts; Answer, Lord Stanley 778

WAR GRATUITY—CIVILIAN HOSPITAL ORDERLIES.—Mr. Guthrie (Tower Hamlets, Bow); Answer, Lord Stanley 779

RETURN OF TROOPS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 779

RETURN OF THE HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 779

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—NEW ARMY ORDER.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central), Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee), and Colonel Welby (Taunton); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 780

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S SALARY.—Question, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 782

MILITIA TRAINING.—Question, Mr. Lambert; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 782

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—IRISH REGIMENTS.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 782

TITLE OF IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.—Question, Colonel Welby; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 782

ARMY RECRUITING—INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORTS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Lord Stanley 783

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Lord Stanley 783

VOLUNTEER CLOTHING CONTRACTS.—Question, Lieut.-Colonel Pryce-Jones (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Lord Stanley 784

NAVY—RETURN OF FLEETS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 784

THE BUDGET PROPOSALS—EFFECT ON RUNNING CONTRACTS.—Questions, Mr. Plummer (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Mr. Warr (Liverpool, Toxteth), and Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 784

CHINA—CLAIMS OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.—Question, Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.); Answer, The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 785

NIU-CHWANG MARITIME CUSTOMS BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Norman; Answer, Viscount Cranborne 786

PAPERS ON CHINA.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 786

COAL EXPORT RETURN.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 787

SCHOOL BOARDS AND HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Vice President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 787

CATTLE BREEDING IN COUNTY WESTMEATH.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 788

IRISH REGISTRATION LAWS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 788

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE PURCHASE—GERMAN STATE RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 789

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 789

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION.—Questions, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.), Mr. William Redmond, and Captain Donelan; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 790

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.—Questions, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) and Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 790

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL'S QUESTIONS.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Speaker 791

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) and Colonel Welby; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 793

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES) :—

Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Mr. Kemp; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Griffith Boscawen.

Mr. Halsey further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Isolation Hospitals Bill:—Mr. Charles Allen, Mr. Bill, Mr. Colston, Mr. John Dewar, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Sir Walter Foster, Sir Robert Gunter, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Mr. Grant Lawson, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Sir Thomas Roe, Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. Strutt, and Mr. Tomlinson.

Mr. Halsey further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice and Legal

Procedure the following fifteen Members in respect of the Cremation Bill [Lords]:—Mr. Banbury, Mr. Broadhurst, Sir Michael Foster, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Jeffreys, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. Lowe, Dr. MacDonnell, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Seton Carr, Mr. Samuel Smith, Dr. E. C. Thompson, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Luke White, and Sir Frederick Wills.

Reports to lie upon the Table 793

Business of the House (Supply).—Ordered, That the other Government Business have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Morning Sittings.

Mr. A. J. Balfour 794

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday, at Two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to such Morning Sittings."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Discussion:—

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 795
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 798
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 798
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 800
Mr. Norval M. Helme (*Lancashire, Lancaster*) 801
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 802
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 804
Mr. A. J. Balfour 805
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 809
Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 811
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 812
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 815
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 816
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 818
Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*) 818
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 821

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 198; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 130.)

Question put accordingly, "That until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday at two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to such Morning Sittings."

The House divided:—Ayes, 192; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 131.)

Resolved, That until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday, at Two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order 56 be extended to such Morning Sittings.

NEW BILL.

Vagrants' Children Protection.—Bill for the further protection of the Children of Vagrants, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Warr, Mr. Yerburgh, Mr. John Burns, and Mr. Hay.

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Vagrants' Children Protection Bill—"For the further protection of the Children of Vagrants," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 30th April, and to be printed. [Bill 145.] 829

WAYS AND MEANS.—Considered in Committee:—
[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

LOAN.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That, towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and two, sums not exceeding sixty million pounds may be raised by all or any of the following methods:—(a) by means of the creation of two and three-quarter per cent. Consolidated Stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888; or (b) by means of the issue of further War Stock or War Bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or (c) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills; or (d) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds; and that the principal of, and interest on, any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund. That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Discussion:—
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 831
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 836
Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) 847

Motion made, and Question put—
"That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Bryn Roberts.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 171. [Division List No. 132.]

Original Question again proposed.
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) .. 853
Mr. Bryn Roberts 853

Amendment proposed—
"In line 5, paragraph (a), to leave out the words from the words 'per cent.,' to the end of the paragraph, in order to insert the words 'Transvaal Loan Stock to be secured primarily by a charge on the assets of the Transvaal Colony and guaranteed by the United Kingdom.'"—(*Mr. Bryn Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir M. Hicks Beach 860
Mr. John Redmond 862
Mr. A. J. Balfour 863
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 863
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 864
Sir M. Hicks Beach 865
Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 865
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) 865
Mr. Bryn Roberts 865

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) 866
Mr. Lough 867

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 186 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 133.)

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at a quarter after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.—The Lord Balinhard (*E. Southesk*) took the oath 873

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway Bill [H.L.].—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 873

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Finchley and Hendon Tramways. And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with :—South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways (Petition for additional provision) ; London United Tramways. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 873

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.] (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) ; Barry Railway Bill ; Rodger's Patent (Petition for Bill) ; Examiners' Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Friday next 873

Bridewell Hospital Bill [H.L.] ; Bethlem Hospital Bill [H.L.].—Supplemental Reports of His Majesty's Attorney General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 873

Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Worcester Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Committed ; The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 873

Chester Gas Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn : The order made on the 12th of March last discharged ; and the Bill committed 874

Newport (Isle of Wight) Gas Bill [H.L.]—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 12th and 28th of March last discharged ; and the Bill committed 874

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Sheffield District Railway Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 874

Gravesend Gas Bill; Neath Harbour Bill; Wolverhampton and Cannock nock Chase Railway Bill; Brought from the Commons; read 1*a*, and referred to the Examiners 874

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, Etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Manchester (Market Street Area) Improvements Bill [H.L.]; Manchester and Liverpool Electric Express Railway Bill [H.L.]; Stockport Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Report from the Committee of Selection, That the L. Kenry (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Viscount Bangor; read, and agreed to .. 874

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill [H.L.] **(No. 34)**.—A Bill intituled an Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Aberavon, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Hampton, Hoddesdon, Ince-in-Makerfield, Mountain Ash, Neath (Rural District), Pontypridd, Teddington, and Worsley 874

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill [H.L.] (No. 35).—A Bill intituled an Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barry, Crompton, Foots Cray, Friern Barnet, Isle of Thanet (Rural); Newbury, Pudsey, Ross, Roundhay, and Royton. Were presented by the Earl of Hardwicke (for the Earl of Dudley); read 1*a*; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 875

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill (No. 36); Thames and Severn Provisional Order Bill (No. 37); Brought from the Commons; read 1*a*; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 875

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the following papers having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to order of the House of the 17th of February, 1896, viz. :—

1. Marriages, Births, and Deaths (England).—General Abstract for 1900. (March 30.)

2. South Africa—

   I. Further correspondence relating to affairs in South Africa (in continuation of [Cd. 420], December, 1900).

   II. Letter from Commandant Louis Botha to Lord Kitchener, dated 13th February, 1901. (April 2.)

3. Trade.—Annual statement of trade of United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, for 1900: Volume 1. (April 3.)

4. Army.—Approximate estimate of expenditure under the Barracks Act of 1890 and Military Works Act of 1897 and 1899. (April 11.)

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5. Metropolitan Cattle Market.—Account of moneys received and paid by the Chamberlain of the City of London in relation to the Metropolitan Cattle Market for the year 1900; also an account of extraordinary works executed other than general repairs for the same period. (April 11.)

6. Explosives—

I. (Explosion at Chilworth Gunpowder Factory).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Major A. Cooper Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in the corning house at the factory of the Chilworth Gunpowder Company, Limited, at Chilworth, Surrey, on 12th February, 1901.

II. (Explosion at Nobel's Explosives Factory at Ardeer, Ayrshire).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in one of the dynamite cartridge huts at the factory of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, at Ardeer, near Stevenston, in the county of Ayr, on the 29th January, 1901. (April 11.)

7. Trade Reports—

I. Annual Series:—No. 2568. Germany (German East Africa). No. 2569. France (La Rochelle and District) (April 11.) No. 2570. United States (Baltimore and District) (April 13.) No. 2571. United States (Texas.) No. 2572. United States (Charleston) (April 17). No. 2573. Greece (The Morea, Acarnania, Etolia). No. 2574. Germany (Pomerania). No. 2575. Trade of Switzerland for 1900 (April 18).

II. Miscellaneous Series:—No. 549. German Colonial Estimates for 1901. No. 550. Zinc Industry in United States (April 13).

8. Army and Militia.—Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting for 1900. (April 17.)

9. Egypt, No. 1. (1901).—Reports by His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General on the Finances, Administration, and condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1900. (April 18).

10. China, No. 3. (1901).—Further correspondence respecting events at Peking (in continuation of China. No. 4 (1900)). (April 18.)

11. Treaty Series, No. 4. (1901).—Agreement additional to the Convention between the United Kingdom and France, of 8th December, 1882, relative to the exchange of Telegraph Money Orders between the two countries; signed at Paris 10th October, 1900 (ratifications exchanged at Paris 16th March, 1901). (April 19.)

12. Agrarian Offences (Provinces) (Ireland).—Return for the Year ended 31st December, 1900. (April 19).

13. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—

I. Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for 1900.

II. Return of prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for 1900. (April 19.)

14. Loan Fund Board (Ireland).—Sixty-third Annual Report for 1900. (April 19.)

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15. Queensland.—The Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Acts, 1885 to 1898, Amendment Act of 1900. (April 20.)

16. Western Australia.—The Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1900, No. V. (April 20.)

17. Education (Scotland).—Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 19th April, 1901, amending the terms of Article 89 (*b*) of the Code of 1901. (April 20.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 875

SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.—Return stating the number of sailors and soldiers, giving their names and description, who have been invalided home since the commencement of the South African Campaign, and have died from wounds or diseases ; laid before the House (pursuant to Address of the 21st of February last), and to be printed. (No. 30.) 875

POLICE (SCOTLAND).—Forty-third Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, for the year ended 31st December, 1900. .. 878

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).—Seventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the commissioners and trustees of the Board of Manufacturers in Scotland, for the year ending 30th September, 1900 878

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.—Third Report of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Board to the Secretary to Scotland 878

CROFTER HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886–87.—Report by the Crofters Commission, being for the year ended 31st December, 1900. 878

TRADE REPORTS.—

I. Annual Series.—No. 2576. Germany (Chemnitz).

II. Miscellaneous Series.—No. 551. Veterinary work in British East Africa and Uganda Protectorate, 1898–1900.

III. Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives abroad on Trade and subjects of general interest (with appendix) 1900.

(Presented by command), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 878

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).—Return of all loans raised in England under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half year ended on the 31st March, 1901, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, etc. 878

EGYPTIAN GUARANTEED LOAN, 1885.—Account for the year ending 31st March, 1901 879

GREEK LOAN, 1898.—Account for the year ending 31st March, 1901 879

PUBLIC RECORDS.—

I. (Admiralty Department).—Seventh Schedule, containing a list and particulars of classes of documents which have been removed from the office of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein.

II. (Supreme Court of Judicature).—Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the Central Office and in the District Registries which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Record Office 879

SUPERANNUATION (PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS). — Treasury Minute dated 22nd March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of junior inspector, attached to the elementary Branch of the Board of Education, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired on the Public Service are required .. 879

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Order, dated the 25th day of March, 1901, prohibiting the landing of animals from the Republic of Chile 879

POLLING DISTRICTS.—

1. County of Cambridge.—Order made by the County Council of the County of Cambridge creating a new polling district in the Eastern Division of the County;

2. County of Essex.—Order made by the County Council of the County of Essex on 2nd April, 1901, altering certain polling districts in the county;

3. City of Wakefield.—Order made by the Council of the City of Wakefield on 13th March, 1901, altering certain polling districts in the city 879

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT) (WAREHOUSES IN FACTORIES OR WORKSHOPS WHERE BRIGHT OR BURNISHED METAL GOODS ARE MADE).—Order, dated 6th September, 1900, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 65 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and Section 39 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, permitting warehouses where bright or burnished metal goods are made to be treated as separate factories or workshops as far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons and women 880

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.—Minute by the Board of Education sanctioning the subjects to be taught under the Act, for the City and County Borough of Belfast 880

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Report and Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1900; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 880

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.—University Court Ordinance, No. V. (Glasgow No. 1). Regulations for Degrees in Science in Agriculture; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 31.) 880

THAMES CONSERVANCY.—General Report of the Conservators of the River Thames, from 1st January, 1900, to 31st December, 1900, with a statement of the accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st December, 1900; Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 880

PETITIONS.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of the Corporation of the City of Glasgow; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 880

DECLARATION OF THE SOVEREIGN AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.—Petition against alteration of; of the Presbytery of Abernethy; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 881

NEW BILLS.

Betting Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to render penal the inciting persons to betting and wagering was presented by the Lord Bishop of Hereford: read 1*a* and to be printed. (No. 32.) 881

Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Alkali etc., Works Regulation Act, 1881, was presented by the Lord Kenyon; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 33.) 881

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock, till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—London and North Western Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time .. 881

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 881

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Metropolitan Common Scheme (Ham) Provisional Order Bill; Metropolitan Common Scheme (Orpington) Provisional Order Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 882

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—London County Council (General Powers) Bill. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 882

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DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the second day of April, That, in the case of the following Bill, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Dublin Corporation Bill 882

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 1st day of April, That, in the case of the following Bill, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—National Gallery (Purchase of Adjacent Land) Bill 883

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 2nd day of April, That, in the case of the following Bill, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Electric Lighting (London) Bill 883

Bury Corporation Tramways Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Honley Urban District Council (Gas) Bill; London Bridge Widening Bill; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill; Read the third time, and passed 883

Leatherhead Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 883

Petersfield and Selsey Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 838

London County Council (Money) Bill.—To regulate the Expenditure of Money by the London County Council on Capital Account during the current financial period, and the raising of money to meet such expenditure," read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 883

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS.—Petition for Bill; referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 884

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill; Read a second time, and committed 884

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP F).—Ordered, That Samuel William Wright do attend the Committee on Group F of Private Bills to-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 884

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Tunstall (No. 1); Watermills; Bedford; Abram; Dewsbury; Wharton Hall; Radcliffe and Kearsley; Bower Hollinwood; Broad Oak; and Dunkirk Collieries; to lie upon the Table 884

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Greenwich; Gosport; and London (two); to lie upon the Table.. 884

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from New Cwmgorse; Tunstall (No. 1); Watermills; Dewsbury; Aspull; New Flint; Bedford; Abram; Twyn Gwyn; Wharton Hall; Stevenston; Radcliffe and Kearsley; Broad Oak; Dunkirk; Bower Hollinwood; and Oldham Collieries; to lie upon the Table 885

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petition from London and other places, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 885

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions against, from Dumfries; and Perth; to lie upon the Table 885

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from South Tottenham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 885

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL:—

Petitions against, from Oldham; Manchester; Matlock Bridge (two); Matlock Bath (three); Matlock Bank (two); Tansley; Matlock Green (two); Bensall; Holloway; Winster; Elton; Stockton-on-Tees; Darley Dale; Cromford (two); Darley Bridge; Lea; Two Dales; Darley; Evesham; Horfield; Sheffield (two); Berkeley; and Stockport (fourteen); to lie upon the Table

Petitions in favour, from Glasgow; Inverary; Fife and Angus; Bere Alston (two); Chudleigh; Donside; Bishops Teignton; Bishop Auckland; Spennymoor; Virginstowe; Marston; Lancaster; Caton; Thornton; Kearsley; Ardrossan; Sheffield (two); Beith; Little Dunkeld; Westminster; Cheriton Fitzpaine; Crediton; Dumbarton (two); and Sandford; to lie upon the Table 885

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Tyrie; Holm; Mains; Tillicoultry; Birsay; Alva (three); Annan; Dumfries; Royal Parliamentary and Police Burghs of Scotland; Fordyce; Fenwick; Kilbirnie; Stewarton; Anstruther Easter; Crail; Boyndie (two); Mull; Rathven (three); Dumbarton; Glassary; and Logierait; to lie upon the Table .. ..

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF ESSEX).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Essex altering certain Polling Districts in the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 886

TRADE REPORTS.—Copy presented, of Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives Abroad on Trade and Subjects of General Interest (with Appendix), 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 886

ARKLOW HARBOUR.—Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 886

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS).—Copy presented, of Return for the months of July and August, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 886

PAWNBROKERS' RETURNS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 886

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2576 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 886

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TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 551 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 886

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Charitable Endowments (London).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 133.] 886

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).—Order [28th February] for a Return relative thereto read, and discharged; and instead thereof—

Return ordered, "showing—

I.—The proceedings of Parish Councils in regard to Allotments and Common Pasture under Section 26 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.		7.	8.	9.	10.	11.		12.
County	Parish	Number of applicants granted Allotments since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of applicants refused Allotments since 15th day of May, 1895.	Total number of applicants to Parish Council for Allotments since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of Allotment holders and total acreage of Allotments at 1st day of April, 1901.		Total annual rent payable to Parish Council for Allotment	Number of applicants granted Common Pasture since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of applicants refused Common Pasture since 15th day of May, 1895.	Total number of applicants to Parish Council for Common Pasture since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of holders of Common Pasture and total acreage of Common Pasture at 1st day of April, 1901.		Total annual rent payable to County Council for Common Pasture.
					Number of Allotment holders	Acreage.					Number	Acreage.	
						A.r.p.	£. s. d.					A. r. p.	£ s. d.

II.—The proceedings of County Councils in regard to representations by Parish Councils for Orders under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Section 26, authorising land to be taken on lease compulsorily for allotments.

1.	2.	3.		4.			5.	6.	7.	8.	
County.	Parish.	Date of each representation from Parish Council to County Council as to land for Allotments.		Orders made by County Council for taking land on lease compulsorily for Allotments.			Date of appeal (if any) to Local Government Board from decision of County Council.	Date of Local Government Board Order (if any) over-ruling decision of County Council.	Date of memorial (if any) presented to Local Government Board praying for further inquiry.	Date of final decision (if any) of Local Government Board.	
		Granted by County Council.	Refused by County Council.	Date of Order.	Acreage of land authorised to be taken for Allotments.	Annual rent payable by Parish Council for such land.				(1) Confirming Order.	(2) Rejecting Order.
					A. r. p.	£ s. d.					

—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*) 887

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND) INQUIRY (WEXFORD).—Return ordered, "giving the Report of the Proceedings of the Local Government Board Inquiry into the Question of the Salaries of the County and Assistant Surveyors held at Wexford on the 16th and 17th days of April."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*) 887

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS (LICENSED HOUSES).—Address for "Return showing the number of fully licensed Public Houses and the number of Beer Houses upon the Estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the Metropolitan District which have been already suppressed by the Commissioners since the date of a Report of a Select Committee of the Board made in the year 1883 (see House of Lords Return, No. 175, of Session 1883), and the numbers of those which the Commissioners have decided to suppress upon the determination of the current leases."—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*) 888

SALE OF INTOXICANTS (REFUSAL OF LICENCES).—Address for "Return of the number of licences for the sale of Intoxicants in the United Kingdom, the renewal of which has been refused by the licensing authority during the year ending in October, 1900, and the grounds of such refusals."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*) 889

STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).—Sir James Fergusson reported from the Chairmen's Panel, That they had appointed Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure.

Sir James Fergusson further reported from the Chairmen's Panel; That they had agreed to the following Resolution:—That any Member of the Chairmen's Panel be and he is hereby empowered to ask any other Member of the Chairmen's Panel to take his place in case of necessity.

Report to lie upon the Table 889

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY.—Questions, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs) and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 889

MR. MERRIMAN'S LETTER OF 11TH MARCH, 1898.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 891

PROPOSED DEPORTATION OF BOER PRISONERS TO TASMANIA.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain 891

SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 892

FLOGGING SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES.—Question, Mr. Osmond-Williams (Merionethshire); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 893

SOUTH AFRICAN LAND COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain 894

SOUTH AFRICAN DESPATCHES.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 894

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CAMPS OF CONCENTRATION.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire), Mr. Haviland-Burke (King's County, Tullamore), and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 895

AMERICAN CHARITABLE RELIEF FOR BOER NON-COMBATANTS.—Question, Mr. John Ellis; Answer, Mr. Brodrick.. 897

COST OF THE WAR.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 898

VOLUNTEERS AND YEOMANRY WAR GRATUITY.—Question, Mr. Guthrie (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 898

RETURN OF THE TROOPS—LOYAL SUFFOLK HUSSARS.—Questions, Mr. Price (Norfolk, E.) and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Brodrick 898

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—TERMS OF SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 898

PAY OF YEOMANRY AT THE FRONT.—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 899

SOLDIERS IN HOSPITAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 899

MILITARY PRESS CENSORS AND FALSE NEWS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 899

CIVILIAN HOSPITAL ORDERLIES.—Question, Mr. Guthrie; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 900

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS SERVING AS TROOPERS.—Question, Lieut.-Colonel Pryce Jones (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 901

INSUBORDINATION—UNDER-AGE RECRUITS—CASE OF MICHAEL McMAHON.—Questions, Mr. Joyce (Limerick) and Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Lord Stanley 901

SOLDIERS' DEPENDENTS—CASE OF GEORGE POWELL.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, Lord Stanley 903

RETURNED SOLDIERS' CIVILIAN SUIT.—Question, Mr. Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud); Answer, Lord Stanley 903

ROYAL ENGINEER CORPS ADJUTANTS.—Question, Mr. Harry Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse); Answer, Lord Stanley 904

ARMY MANŒUVRES.—Questions, Colonel Wyndham Murray (Bath) and Mr. Flynn; Answers, Mr. Brodrick 904

VOLUNTEERS—CLASS FIRING.—Question, Colonel Royds (Rochdale); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 905

ARMY COMMISSIONS—PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS.—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 905

EXPLOSIVES COMMITTEE—PATENTS TAKEN OUT IN MEMBERS' NAMES.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond and Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 905

REPORT ON CONTINENTAL RIFLE RANGES.—Question, Colonel Wyndham Murray; Answer, Lord Stanley 906

DURR WATER-TUBE BOILERS.—Question, Mr. William Allan (Gateshead); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 907

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CHINA—FIRE AT PEKING PALACE.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 907

INDEMNITY CLAIMS OF THE VARIOUS POWERS.—Questions, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.) and Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 908

CHINA, RUSSIA, AND JAPAN.—Question, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answer, Viscount Cranborne 909

PLANS OF PEKING.—Question, Mr. Macdona (Southwark, Rotherhithe); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 909

CRETE—PAPERS ON ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 909

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KING'S ACCESSION—SPECIAL MISSIONS TO FOREIGN COURTS.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 910

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 910

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NEW COAL DUTY—RUNNING CONTRACTS.—Questions, Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid) and Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) .. 911

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UNCLAIMED BALANCES RETURN.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 912

UNCLAIMED CHANCERY FUNDS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 912

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SMITHFIELD MARKET.—Question, Mr. Osmond-Williams; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 913

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HOG ISLAND CHANNEL—DANGER TO NAVIGATION.—Question, Major Jameson (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 915

ELECTRICAL ENERGY BILLS.—Question, Mr. Rea (Gloucester); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 915

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OVERCROWDING IN EAST LONDON—PAUPER ALIENS.—Question, Mr. Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 916

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 917

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POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE.—Questions, Mr. M'Kenna (Monmouthshire, N.) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Jesse Collings, Birmingham, Bordesley) 917

EDUCATION—REX v. COCKERTON.—Question, Major Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 918

WIMBLEDON SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Mr. Nussey (Pontefract); Answer, Sir J. Gorst 919

SWANSEA POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Sir George Newnes (Swansea Town); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 919

LEDBURY—EX-POSTMAN'S GRIEVANCE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 920

HEBDEN BRIDGE—POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 920

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ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—CASE OF SERGEANT JAMES SULLIVAN.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 921

IRISH CREAMERIES.—Question, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 922

LABOURERS (IRELAND) ACT—APPLICATIONS IN GRANARD UNION.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 922

IRISH UNION NURSES.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 923

KILLARNEY QUARTER SESSIONS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 923

CORK CITY CRIMINAL SESSIONS.—Question, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 924

UNCLAIMED BALANCES IN IRISH BANKS.—Question, Mr. O'Shee; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 924

IRISH LABOURERS—PRIZE FOR INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 925

IRISH ROAD SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 925

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN TUBBERCURRY.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 926

DAVID FINLAY'S ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 926

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IRISH POOR RATE COLLECTOR.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 928

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CONTEMPT OF COURT—CASE OF THOMAS EATON.—Question, Mr. M'Dermott (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 930

DUBLIN G.P.O.—PROMOTIONS.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 930

FERMOY POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 931

BELTURBET POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. M'Govern; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 931

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN.—Questions, Mr. Tritton (Lambeth, Norwood) and Sir W. Hart Dyke (Kent, Dartford); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) .. 932

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.), Mr. Charles Hobhouse, and Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 932

SUPPLY (CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES):—Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed:—

"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FOR IRELAND.

Mr. Roche (Galway, E.) 933
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 934

Amendment proposed:—

"To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the provision for universities is totally inadequate, and none can be regarded as equitable which does not secure for the Roman Catholics of Ireland, equally with other members of the community, facilities for university education without violence to their religious feeling'; instead thereof."—(*Mr. Roche.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Discussion:—

Colonel Saunderson (Armagh, N.) 949
Mr. Morris (Galway) 955
Mr. James Hope (Sheffield, Brightside) 966
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 968
The Solicitor General (Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University) .. 974
Mr. John Gordon (Londonderry, S.) 979
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) 983

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Mr. Macartney (Antrim, E.) 988
Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) 998
Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire) 1002
The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1008
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1015

It being midnight, Mr. Speaker interrupted the business, whereupon—

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed that the Question be now put.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 235 ; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 134.)

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Mr. Balfour claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 239 ; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 135.)

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Wednesday.

WAYS AND MEANS [19TH APRIL.]—Resolution reported.

LOAN.

"That, towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and two, sums not exceeding sixty million pounds may be raised by all or any of the following methods :—(*a*) by means of the creation of two and three-quarter per cent. Consolidated Stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888 ; or (*b*) by means of the issue of further War Stock or War Bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900 ; or (*c*) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills ; or (*d*) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds ; and that the principal of, and interest on, any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. John Redmond 1029

Debate adjourned till to-morrow at Two of the clock.

Army Annual Bill.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 1029

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 9, to leave out the word 'all.'"—*Sir Charles Dilke.*

Question proposed—

"That the word 'all' stand part of the Question."

The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) 1030
Sir Charles Dilke 1030
Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1030
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 1030

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Colonel Welby (*Taunton*) 1031

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 11, after 'that purpose,' add 'provided that whenever any such inquiry affects the character or efficiency of an officer or soldier, full opportunity shall be afforded to the officer or soldier of being present throughout the inquiry, and of making any statement he may wish to make, and of cross-examining any witness whose evidence, in his opinion, affects his character or efficiency, and producing any witnesses in defence of his character or efficiency.'"—(*Colonel Welby.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lambert (*Devonshire, SouthMolton*) 1033
Mr. Brodrick 1034
Mr. T. M. Healy 1034
Sir Charles Dilke 1035
Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1036
The Attorney General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) .. 1037
Mr. Asquith 1037
Mr. T. M. Healy 1038
Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 1039
Mr. Lambert 1040
Sir Charles Dilke 1041
Mr. Brodrick 1041
Mr. T. M. Healy 1041
Colonel Welby 1042
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 1042

Amendment negatived.

Question proposed—

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

Question put—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 148; Noes, 64. (Division List No. 136.)

Clause 5 agreed to.

Schedule:—

Colonel Nolan 1043

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from line 18 to the end of the schedule."—(*Colonel Nolan.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

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Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.) 1045
Mr. Brodrick 1045

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 131 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 137.)

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow at Two of the clock.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Three of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.—Several Lords took the Oath.

SAT FIRST.—The Lord Inverclyde sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 1049

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) [H.L.]. Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :—Paisley Gas Provisional Order. And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with :—Elland Gas [H.L.] (Petition for additional Provision). The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1049

Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—A petition of Messrs. Baker, Lees, and Co., of No. 54, Parliament Street, Westminster, parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of Watford Urban District Council, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition 1049

Finchley and Hendon Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Presented ; read 1*a* ; and referred to the Examiners 1050

Smethwick Corporation Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn : The order made on the 8th of March last discharged, and Bill committed .. 1050

City and South London Railway Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn : The order made on the 12th of March last discharged, and Bill committed 1050

Weston-super-Mare Gas Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn : The order made on the 14th of March last discharged, and Bill committed .. 1050

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West and South London Junction Railway Bill [H.L.].—Read 2*a* 1050

City and North-East Suburban Electric Railway Bill [H.L.].—Read 2*a* (according to order) 1050

Omagh Gas Bill [H.L.]; Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [H.L.]; Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [H.L.]; Alfreton Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 3*a*, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1050

Shields Bridge Bill [H.L.]. Read 3*a*; an amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 1050

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 18th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed 1051

Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; the orders made on the 11th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed for Monday next 1051

Harpenden District Gas Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 19th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed 1051

Great Northern Railway Bill; Henley Urban District Council (Gas) Bill; London Bridge Widening Bill; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1*a*; and referred to the Examiners 1051

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Irish Land Commission (Judicial Rents).—Return for the months of July and August, 1900; Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1051

Pawnbrokers' Returns (Ireland).—Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin, for the year ended 31st December, 1900: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1052

NEW BILL.

Solictors Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend certain provision of the Solicitors Acts, 1839 to 1894—Was presented by the Lord Alverstone; read 1*a*; to be printed; and to be read 2*a* on Tuesday next. (No. 38) 1052

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.].—[Second Reading.]—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Alverstone 1052

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2*a*.—(*Lord Alverstone.*)

The Lord Chancellor (the Earl of Halsbury) 1055

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday, the 7th of May next.

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs Bill) [H.L.], Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 1055

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1901.

The House met at Two of the clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Midland Railway Bill.—King's consent signified. Read the third time, and passed 1056

Taff Vale Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1056

Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Gas Bill.—[BY ORDER.] —As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1056

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS. [BY ORDER.]—Ordered, That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed to join with the Committee of the Lords on London Underground Railways as desired by their Lordships. Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to acquaint them therewith. Ordered, That Sir William Arrol, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Cawley, Sir Michael Foster, and Sir John Dickson-Poynder be Members of the Committee. Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records. Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 1056

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read a Second time, and committed 1056

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Metropolitan Common Scheme (Ham) Provisional Order Bill; Metropolitan Common Scheme (Orpington) Provisional Order Bill. Read a second time, and committed 1057

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).—Ordered, That John Mallon do attend the Committee on Group H of Private Bills on Monday next, at Twelve of the clock 1057

Horley District Gas Bill, and Crawley Gas Bill, Consolidated into "The Horley District Gas Bill."—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1057

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the North British Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:— "That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

2. "That, in the case of the Barry Railway, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the West and South London Junction Railway Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the following Clause be inserted :—

Nothing in this Act shall authorise the West and South London Junction Railway Company to enter upon, take, or use (except by agreement) any cellar or vault in or under any street belonging to or connected with any building, or the sub-soil under such cellar or vault, unless such cellar or vault, or the building with which it is connected, is described in the deposited books of reference.

And also a Clause to the effect that they shall not take or use (except by agreement) not only the cellars or vaults belonging to or occupied by the memorialists, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., the Right Hon. the Lord Iveagh, K.P., the Hon. William Frederick Danvers Smith, M.P., but also the sub-soil under such cellars or vaults.

That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the Winsford Urban District Gas, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

5. "That, in the case of the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

6. "That, in the case of the North British Railway Bill, Petition for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of the Petition of 'Sir James Sivewright' against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

7. "That, in the case of the Great Central Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit." 1057

Resolutions agreed to.

BARRY RAILWAY.—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read. Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Alfred Thomas and Mr. David Thomas 1059

Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill.—Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken before the Committee on the Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill, 1899, be referred to the Committee on Group H on the above-named Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*) .. 1059

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Sheffield District Railway Company to raise additional capital by the creation and issue of debenture stock for the purposes of their undertaking." [Sheffield District Railway Bill] [Lords]. 1059

Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1059

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PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petition from Hereford, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. 1059

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Monmouthshire, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1059

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Bradford; and Aspatria; to lie upon the Table 1059

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Staines; Dorking; Weardale; Burton-on-Trent; Twrcelyn; Menai Bridge; and Norwich; to lie upon the Table 1060

LICENSING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition of Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1060

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Carluke, against; to lie upon the Table 1060

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against, from Plymouth; and Selby; to lie upon the Table 1060

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Waverley; Brook; Varteg; Pwllbach; Poynton; Gwauncaegurwen; Treeton; Nunnery; (No. 1); Penrhier and Woodfield; Park Lane; Cannock Chase; Chase Town; Brereton (No. 2); Ashton Moss; Bagworth; West Cannock (No. 1); Oakwell; Balgonie; Westfield; Lumphinnans; Halbeath and Kingseat; Lassodie; Windygates; Crossgates; Methilhill; West Wemyss; Rosebank; Kelty; Lochore; Donibristle; and Cardenden Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1060

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Cathcart, against; to lie upon the Table 1060

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions against, from Rochester; Whitchurch; Berkhampstead; Reading (two); Shrewsbury; Derby; Osgoldcross; Nottingham; Westbury-on-Trym; Thornbury; Hawkesbury Upton; Chipping Sodbury; Morley; Oldland Common; Birmingham; Fishponds; Idle; Upper Hackney; Matlock Bridge; Matlock Town; Hartlepool; Kingswood; and Hythe; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Rotherham; Derby; London; Sheffield (two); Halifax (four); Rhayader; Swansea; Gorseion (two); Llansamlet; Goole; Masham; Rothesay; Failsworth; Hallifield; Plaistow; Stanwix; and Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland; to lie upon the Table 1060

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Sheffield; Epsom; Halifax; and Queensbury; to lie upon the Table 1061

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Lochmaben; Annan; Barry; Thornliebank (five); Cathcart; Lonmay; Rathen; Kinning Park; Lesmahagow; Dunfermline; Logie Port; and Swinton; to lie upon the Table .. 1061

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ALIENS.—Address for "Return showing the names of all Aliens to whom Certificates of Naturalisation have been issued, and who have taken the oath of allegiance, between the 1st day of January, 1900, and the 31st day of December, 1900, giving the country and place of residence of the person naturalised, and including information as to any Aliens who have during the same period obtained Acts of Naturalisation from the Legislature (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 113, of Session 1 of 1900)."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*) 1061

IMPRISONMENT OF A MEMBER—MR. PATRICK ALOYSIUS M'HUGH.—Mr. Speaker acquainted the House that he had received the following letter from the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland relating to the imprisonment of Mr. Patrick Aloysius M'Hugh, a Member of this House 1061

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY.—Question, Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1062

MR. MERRIMAN'S LETTER OF THE 14TH NOVEMBER, 1899.—Question. Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer. Mr. J. Chamberlain 1063

COST OF THE WAR.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1064

LORD ROBERTS'S TELEGRAMS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1064

MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, West Houghton) 1065

AID FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Lord Stanley 1065

RETURN OF THE TROOPS.—Question, Mr. Rutherford (Lancashire, Darwen); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1065

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1066

LINKED BATTALIONS.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1067

ARMY REORGANISATION—HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1067

CHINA—COMMAND OF ALLIED FORCES—CORRESPONDENCE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 1067

FIGHTING IN CENTRAL ARABIA.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 1068

KHORAT RAILWAY CONTRACT.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 1068

THE NEW SUGAR DUTY.—Questions, Mr. Goddard (Ipswich), Mr. Kearley (Devonport), and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 1069

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THE NEW COAL DUTY—AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING ACT.—Questions, Mr. Herbert Lewis, and Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1071

EXPORT STATISTICS.—Question. Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1072

FOOD ADULTERATION PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1072

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1073

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL'S TOTTENHAM HOUSING SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Joseph Howard (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1074

PENRHYN QUARRY DISPUTE.—Questions, Mr. Field, Mr. Bell (Derby), and Mr. John Wilson (Durham, Mid); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1074

BELFAST ORDERS FOR AMERICAN STEEL.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1075

LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION ON LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1075

INSTRUCTION IN FORESTRY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis; Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 1075

BRUCE GROVE POST OFFICE—PROVISION OF CHANGE.—Question, Mr. Lambert; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1076

POSTAL ACCOMMODATION AT THORPE HESLEY.—Question, Mr. Holland (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1077

IRELAND—MORTALITY AMONGST CALVES.—Questions, Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) and Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1077

GRAZING LAND TENANCIES.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1078

LAND PURCHASE IN COUNTY WEXFORD.—Questions, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1079

LAND DISTURBANCES IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1078

LONGFORD GUARDIANS SUBCHARGE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1080

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE GRANARD UNION.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1080

BUTLER ESTATE, CO. GALWAY.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1081

POOR LAW OFFICERS' (IRELAND) SUPERANNUATION.—Questions, Mr. Murnaghan (Tyrone, Mid), Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.), and Mr. Daly; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1083

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FRENCHPARK WATERWORKS.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1083

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON PETTY SESSIONS CLERK.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1084

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE PURCHASE—GERMAN STATE RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1084

ROAD LABOUR IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham.. 1085

DAVID FINLAY'S ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1085

THE KING'S ACCESSION—PROCLAMATION AT LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1085

CULLOVILLE (IRELAND) POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1086

CORK POST OFFICE REVISION.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1086

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 1087

REX v. COCKERTON.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1088

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy and Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1088

SATURDAY SITTINGS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1089

DECIMAL SYSTEM OF COINAGE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1089

ROYAL COMMISSION ON IRISH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1089

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LOCAL TAXATION.—Question, Mr. Lambert; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1090

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.), Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.), Sir John Colomb, and Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Sir M. Hicks Beach and Mr. A. J Balfour 1090

THE NEW SUGAR DUTY—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 1092
Motion ruled out of order.

WATER COMPANIES (LIABILITY FOR STORAGE OF WATER) BILL.—Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Water Companies (Liability for Storage of Water) Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*) .. 1093

NEW BILLS.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT.—Bill to amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Spear, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Duke, Mr. Peel, Mr. Schwann, and Mr. Cawley.

Infant Life Protection Act (1897) Amendment Bill—"To amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 146.] 1093

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT.—Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1888, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Spear, Mr. Duke, Mr. Oldroyd, and Mr. Taylor.

Local Government Act (1888) Amendment Bill—"To amend the Local Government Act, 1888," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 147.] 1094

WAYS AND MEANS.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

INCOME TAX.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Income Tax shall be charged for the year beginning the sixth day of April, Nineteen Hundred and One, at the rate of one shilling and twopence."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Discussion:—

Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet) 1094
Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.) 1104
Mr. Vicary Gibbs (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 1101
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) 1106
Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.) 1108
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1110
Mr. David MacIver (Liverpool, Kirkdale) 1112
Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) 1113
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 1114
Mr. E. J. C. Morton (Devonport) 1116
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 1118
Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) 1122
Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 1124
Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston) 1125
Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.) 1128
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.)*1129
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 1133
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 1134

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 363; Noes, 88. (Division List No. 138.)

And, it being after ten minutes to Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported to-morrow; Committee to sit again to-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the Certificate and Report relating to the Monmouth Boroughs .. 1139

STEAMSHIP COMMUNICATION—GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) 1141
Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe) 1154

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under foreign Governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade; and to consider and report

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upon the political and commercial advantages to be gained by encouraging British steamers to circumnavigate Africa, especially having regard to the East coast, and to report upon the best means of giving them such encouragement."—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Discussion :—

Sir Francis Evans (Maidstone) 1157
Mr. Arthur Stanley (Lancashire, Ormskirk) 1159
Sir Charles Cayzer (Barrow-in-Furness) 1161
Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.) 1165
Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) 1165

Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) rose in his place, and claimed to move,—

"That the Question be now put"; but Mr. Speaker withheld his consent, and declined then to put that Question.

Debate resumed.

Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) 1169
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1171

Amendment proposed,—

"To leave out all the words after the word 'trade' to the end of the Question."—(*Sir James Fergusson*).

Agreed to.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under Foreign Governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade.

SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH.

Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 1175

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That, considering the increasing burden which the private ownership of land and capital is imposing upon the industrious and useful classes of the community, the poverty and destitution and general moral and physical deterioration resulting from a competitive system of wealth production which aims primarily at profit making, the alarming growth of trusts and syndicates able by reason of their great wealth to influence Governments and plunge peaceful Nations into war to serve their interests, this House is of opinion that such a condition of affairs constitutes a menace to the well-being of the Realm, and calls for legislation designed to remedy the same by inaugurating a Socialist Commonwealth founded upon the common ownership of land and capital, production for use and not for profit, and equality of opportunity for every citizen."—(*Mr. Keir Hardie, Merthyr Tydvil*).

Mr. Banbury 1180

It being midnight the debate stood adjourned.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 24TH APRIL, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Folkestone Corporation Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed. 1181

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.—Petition from Aberfeldy, in favour of re-enactment; to lie upon the Table 1181

COAL.—Petition from Cardiff, against proposed Customs Export Duty; to lie upon the Table 1181

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Nunnery (No. 1); Treeton; Poynton; Waverley; Park Lane; Ashton Moss; Bagworth; Oakwell; Cardenden; Halbeath and Kingseat; Balgonie; Westfield; Lumphinnans; Lassodie; Windygates; Rosebank; Methilhill; West Wemyss; Crossgates; Kelty; Lochore; Donibristle; Ashton Field; Trencherbone; Mosley Common; Ayr; Walkden and Swinton; Ellesmere; Wheat Sheaf (No. 1); Linsayshaw; and Burnley Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1181

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Burnley; and Grimsby; to lie upon the Table 1181

ISOLATION HOSPITALS BILL.—Petition from the Sanitary Institute, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1181

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Brighton and Preston; Oldham; and Hastings; to lie upon the Table 1182

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against; from Lleyn; West Retford; Lewisham (two); Lee (three); Blackheath; Swaffham (two); and Oban; to lie upon the Table 1182

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Onllwyn; Trencherbone; International; Ashton Field; Manor Pit; Kearsley; Mosley Common; Ayr; Walkden and Swinton; Lennytham; Wheatsheaf (No. 1); Ellesmere; Bank Hall; and Burney Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1182

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petition of Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table .. 1182

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table 1182

RIVERS POLUTION PREVENTION BILL.—Petition of Sanitary Institute, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1182

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Bedminster; Grampound Road; Dudley; and Paignton; to lie upon the Table 1182

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions against, from Chesham (two); Gainsborough; Forest of Dean: Ryhope Colliery; Buxton; Preston; and Ashton-under-Lyne; to lie upon the Table.
Petitions in favour, from Goole; Swinton; Nunhead; Small Heath;

Glossop; Whaley Bridge; Furness Vale; Birch Vale; Thornsett; New Mills; Chorley; Barton-upon-Irwell; Brighton (thirteen); Hove; Preston Park; Llantrissant; Fleetwood; Ellesmere; Little Hulton; Ilfracombe; Dunfermline; Islington; Edinburgh; Saint Pancras; and Heywood; to lie upon the Table 1182

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in in favour, from Falkirk; Greenock; Carluke; Cromarty; East Kilbride; Barvas; Hamilton; Kirkwall; King Edward; Auchterless; and Ardnamwicham; to lie upon the Table 1183

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petition from Alloa, against; to lie upon the Table 1183

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).—Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 31st March, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1183

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—Account presented, of the gross public Income and Expenditure in the year ended 31st March, 1901, together with the Balances in the Exchequer at the commencement and at the termination of the year, and the Amounts received into or issued from the Exchequer in respect of Funded and Unfunded Debt created or redeemed in the said year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 134.] 1183

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Controverted elections (further return).—Copy of Minutes of Evidence and Judgment in the Monmouth Election Trial [Ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Attorney General.*] 1183

SALE OF INTOXICANTS (REFUSAL OF LICENCES).—Order [22nd April] for an Address for a Return relative thereto read, and discharged; and instead thereof:—Intoxicating Liquors Licences Refused.—Address for "Return of the Number of Victuallers' Beerhouse, and other Licences for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors, the Renewal of which has been refused, in the year 1900, by the Justices of the Peace in each Licensing District in England and Wales, showing in each case the ground of such refusal, especially when such ground was in any instance that the licence was not required; and showing also the Result of Appeal, if any (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 335, of Session 1899)."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*) 1184

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill [SECOND READING]—
Order for Second Reading read.
Sir Brampton Gurdon (*Norfolk, N.*) 1185

Motion made, and Question proposed,—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."
Mr. Griffith-Boscawen (*Kent, Tunbridge*) 1194
Mr. Sharpe (*Kensington, N.*) 1201

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'—(*Mr. Griffith Boscawen.*)

Question proposed,—
"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion :—

Mr. Mellor (*Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby*) 1202
Mr. Vicary Gibbs (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 1205
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 1208
Mr. Cathcart Wason (*Orkney and Shetland*) 1210
Earl Percy (*Kensington, S.*) 1212
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 1221
Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 1232
Mr. Seely (*Lincoln*) 1238
Sir James Fergusson (*Manchester, N.E.*) 1240
Captain Jessel (*St. Pancras, S.*) 1242
Mr. Flower (*Bradford, W.*) 1243

Sir Brampton Gurdon rose in his place, and claimed to move,—
"That the Question be now put."

Question put, That the Question be now put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 290 ; Noes, 106. (Division List No. 139.)

Question put accordingly,—
"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes, 279 ; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 140.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

It being Six of the clock, Mr, Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL, 1901.

LORD DUNSANY.—Petition of Edward John Moreton Drax, Baron of Dunsany, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland ; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House 1253

TOOK THE OATH.—The Lord Poltimore took the Oath 1253

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments 1253

Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District (Water) Bill [H.L.]. — Reported with Amendments 1253

Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]—Reported with Amendments ; read 2*a* 1253

Oakham Water Bill [H.L.]; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; read 3*a*, and passed, and sent to the Commons .. 1253

Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Standing Order No. 92, considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a petition of Watford Urban District Council : Leave given to present the said petition 1253

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Bury Corporation Tramways Bill; Midland Railway Bill; Taff Vale Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1*a*; and referred to the Examiners 1253

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (Acton) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900, to enable the school board for Acton to put in force the Lands Clauses Act, was presented by the Lord Belper (for the Lord President [*D. Devonshire*]); read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 40) 1253

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.—Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Select Committee to consist of five Members to join with the Select Committee appointed by this House, as mentioned in their Lordships' Message of the 26th of March last 1254

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).—Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the Quarter ended 31st March, 1901 .. 1254

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—(1) Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school. (2) Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes. Presented (by command), and ordered to lie upon the Table 1254

NEW BILL.

Marriages Legislation Bill [H.L.]—A Bill for legalising marriages heretofore solemnised in certain churches and places was presented by the Lord Belper; read 1*a*; to be printed; and to be read 2*a* on Thursday next. (No. 39) 1254

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered to-morrow, in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting .. 1254

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 25TH APRIL, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Eastern Railway Bill. [By Order.].—As amended, considered.

Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 1255

Amendment proposed:—

"In page 25, to leave out Clause 27."—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of the clause to the word 'not,' in line 13, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Penn (*Lewisham*) 1259
Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*) 1261

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Sir Joseph Pease (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) 1261
Mr. Tennant (*Berwickshire*) 1262
Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1262
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 1262
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 1263
Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 1263
Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 1264

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 213 ; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 141.)
Mr. Gray (*West Ham, N.*) 1267

Mr. Penn formally seconded.

Amendment proposed—
"In Clause 27, page 25, line 13, after 'sickness,' leave out 'not arising from injuries in respect of which such members are entitled to compensation from the company by statute or common law, or under the Great Eastern Railway Accident Fund Scheme.'"—(*Mr. Gray.*)

Amendment agreed to.
Mr. Bell 1268

Amendment proposed—
"Clause 27, page 25, line 24, to leave out from the word 'section' to the word 'to' in line 25."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."
Mr. Penn 1270

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 204 ; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 142.)

Another Amendment made.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 1273

Amendment proposed—
"In page 26, Clause 27, Sub-section D, to insert the words 'notwithstanding anything contained in any rule of a railway company.'"—(*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment agreed to.
Mr. Bell 1274

Amendment proposed—
"In page 26, Clause 27, line 5, to leave out Sub-section D, and insert the words, 'Membership in the society shall not be made a condition of employment by the company, nor shall any discrimination be made against employees who do not join,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Penn 1274
Mr. Gray 1274

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The Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) 1275
Mr. Bell 1275
Mr. Keir Hardie 1275
Mr. Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) 1276

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 225; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 143.)

Bill to be read the third time.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Dorking Gas Bill. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 1281

Long Eaton Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1281

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Fourth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table and to be printed, ... 1281

Wells Corporation Water Bill—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1281

Wells Water Bill.—Reported [Parties do not proceed]; Report to lie upon the Table 1281

Cardiff Corporation Bill: Tendring Hundred Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 1281

Glasgow and Renfrew District Railway Transfer Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed .. 1281

Gateshead and District Tramways Bill.—Reported without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.. 1281

Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Reported to lie upon the Table; Bill to be read the third time 1281

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill.—Reported without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table; Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1282

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).—Ordered, That Mr. John Collins do attend the Committee on Group A of Private Bills this day 1282

Leatherhead Gas Bill—Petersfield and Selsey Gas Bill; read the third time, and passed 1282

Barry Railway Bill.—"To extend the time for the completion of certain railways of the Barry Railway Company," read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1282

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS :—

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to dissolve the Omagh Gas Company; and to incorporate and confer powers on a new Company," Omagh Gas Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, " An Act to alter and amend certain provisions of the Deed of Constitution of the Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society; and for other purposes." Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, " An Act to make further provisions with reference to and to confer further powers on the undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation; to amend the Acts relating to their undertaking; and for other purposes." Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, " An Act to constitute and incorporate a joint water board for the urban districts of Aspatria and Holme Cultram, in the county of Cumberland, and to authorise such joint water board to construct works and to supply water to those and adjacent districts; and for other purposes." Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, " An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Alfreton Gas Company; and for other purposes." Alfreton Gas Bill [Lords].

And also a Bill, intituled, " An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Shields Bridge Company; and for other purposes." Shields Bridge Bill [Lords] 1282

Omagh Gas Bill [Lords]; Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [Lords]; Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [Lords]; Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [Lords]; Alfreton Gas Bill [Lords]; Shields Bridge Bills [Lords]; read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1283

Newry Port and Harbour Trust Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1283

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).—Mr. Arthur Elliot reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills: That, to meet the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock; Report to lie upon the Table 1283

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP G).—Sir James Woodhouse reported from the Committee on Group G of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at Eleven of the clock; Report to lie upon the Table 1283

North British Railway (Substituted) Bill.—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1284

PETITIONS.

BURIAL PLACE (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Paisley in favour; to lie upon the Table 1284

COAL.—Petition from Newport (Monmouthshire), against proposed Customs Export Duty; to lie upon the Table 1284

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Bretton; Stanhope Silkstone; Barrow Hematite; Carlton Main; Darfield Main; Corton Wood; New Oaks; and Agecroft (No. 3) Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1284

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Elementary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation Schools).—Petition from Wolverhampton, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1284

Elementary Education (New Code of Regulations for Day Schools).—Petition from Leicester, for alteration of Article 101 (*g*); to lie upon the Table 1284

Gun Licence Duty.—Petition from Birmingham, for exempting of members of Civilian Rifle Clubs; to lie upon the Table 1284

Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Barking; Barry; and London (two); to lie upon the Table .. 1284

Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment Bill.—Petition from Paisley, against; to lie upon the Table 1284

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Petitions against; from Cirencester and Sydenham; to lie upon the Table 1284

Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Great Mountain; Park; Trimsaran; Rantycelyn; Pentremawr; Caerbryn; Pontyberem; Fence; Darfleld Main; Barrow Hematite; Bretton; New Oaks; Corton Wood; Stanhope Silkstone; Carlton Main; Ty Trist; (No. 1); Tillery; Pochin (No. 1); Arral; Arral Greffin; White Rose; Whitworth Drift; Whitworth Pit; Agecroft (No. 3); Rose Heyworth; Coalbrook Vale; Celyner; and Cwmtillery Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1285

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—Petition from Seghill, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1285

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Forres, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1285

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions against, from Aberdare (three); Biggleswade; Gainsborough; Peterborough; and Bridgwater; to lie upon the Table 1285

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Goole; Newton Heath; Penarth (three); Barry (four); Cadoxton; Sheffield (two); Scarborough (two); Willenhall (thirteen); Hanley; British Temperance League; Sandwich; Rawmarsh; Leicester; and Cupar Angus; to lie upon the Table 1285

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Drainie; Montrose; Golspie; and Paisley; to lie upon the Table 1285

Sovereign's Oath on Accession Bill.—Petitions against, from Bo'ness and Dysart; to lie upon the Table 1285

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Western Australia (Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1900, No. V.).—Paper [presented 18th April] to be printed. [No. 135] 1285

Queensland (the Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Acts 1885-1898 Amendment Act, 1890).—Paper [presented 18th April] to be printed. [No. 136] 1286

Army (Medical Department).—Copy presented, of Report for the year 1899, Vol. XLI. [by Command]: to lie upon the Table 1286

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ARMY.—Copy presented, of Report by Major General Sir H. E. Colvile K.C.M.G., C.B., on the operations of the Ninth Division at Paardeberg [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1286

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2577 and 2578 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1286

POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Copy ordered, "of Statement of the Amount expended by Boards of Guardians for In-maintenance and Outdoor Relief in England and Wales during the half-year ended Lady Day 1901." "And similar Statement for the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1901."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*) 1286

ULTIMUS HÆRES (SCOTLAND) (ACCOUNT AND LIST OF ESTATES).—Return ordered, "of Abstract Account of the Receipts and Payments of the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in Scotland in the year ended the 31st day of December, 1900, in the administration of Estates and Treasure Trove on behalf of the Crown." "And of Alphabetical List of Estates which fell to the Crown as Ultimus Hæres in Scotland administered by the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in the same year."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain*) 1286

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—ADMINISTRATION OF NATIVE AFFAIRS IN ANNEXED REPUBLICS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1286

BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1287

JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY.—Questions, Mr. Black (Banffshire) and Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1287

PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers Mr. J. Chamberlain and The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, W.) 1288

BOER PRISONERS—INTERNMENT IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 1289

BEER RATIONS FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS.—Question, Sir Cuthbert Quilter (Suffolk, Sudbury); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1290

WAR EXPENDITURE—DETAILS.—Questions, Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1290

BOER REFUGEE CAMPS.—Question, Mr. Osmond Williams (Merionethshire); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1292

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON ACTIVE SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1292

PUBLICATION OF DESPATCHES.—Question, Mr. Younger (Lincolnshire, Stamford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1292

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PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1293

TRANSVAAL WAR SUPPLIES.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton).. 1293

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.—Question, Colonel Welby (Taunton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1294

COLONIAL EXPENDITURE ON THE WAR.—Question, Mr. Labouchere (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1294

AUSTRALIAN TROOPERS—ALLEGED DISTURBANCES AT CAPE TOWN.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Brodrick.. 1295

CANADIAN CONTINGENT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTABULARY—RAID ON OTTAWA HOTEL.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain .. 1295

RETURN OF TROOPS—IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1296

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF EX-PRIVATE LEE AT NETLEY HOSPITAL.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1297

SOLDIERS' PAY—ALLOTMENTS TO WIVES.—Questions, Mr. Caine and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Lord Stanley 1298

DECEASED SOLDIERS' EFFECTS.—Question, Sir James Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1298

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—Question, Lieut.-Colonel Pryce-Jones (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1299

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS AND JURY SERVICE.—Question, Lieut.-Colonel Pryce-Jones; Answer, Lord Stanley 1300

VOLUNTEER ESTABLISHMENT STATISTICS.—Question, Lieut.-Colonel Pryce-Jones; Answer, Lord Stanley 1300

5TH BATTALION ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Lord Stanley 1300

FORT BROCKHURST—CASE OF PRIVATE BOWLES.—Question, Mr. Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Lord Stanley 1301

CASE OF PRIVATE THOMAS RYAN.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Lord Stanley 1301

MARK IV. BULLETS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord Stanley 1301

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—TITLE.—Question, Colonel Welby; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1302

ROYAL IRISH REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer Lord Stanley 1303

IRISH GUARDS—FORAGE CAP.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1304

MILITIA EMBODIMENTS AND DISEMBODIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answer, Lord Stanley 1304

MILITIA OFFICERS' GRATUITY.—Question, Mr. Courtenay Warner; Answer, Lord Stanley 1304

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ROYAL GARRISON REGIMENTS—SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.—Question, Mr. Courtenay Warner; Answer, Lord Stanley 1305

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE MALTESE COURTS.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1306

MAURITIUS JUDICIAL VACANCY.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1306

INDIA—ETAH MURDERS—COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES.—Question, Mr. Caine; Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 1306

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.—Question. Mr. Walter Palmer (Salisbury); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 1307

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 1308

BRITISH OCCUPATION OF EGYPT.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Viscount Cranborne 1308

TREATMENT OF IMPRISONED DERVISH LEADERS.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond and Mr. Dillon; Answer, Viscount Cranborne 1308

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EXPORT COAL DUTY—AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRADE.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1309

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AMERICAN COAL EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1310

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COAL CONSUMPTION IN PIG IRON PRODUCTION.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1312

DURATION OF COAL SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1313

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THE POST OFFICE LONDON TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1326

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EDUCATION OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1331

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN COUNTY MONAGHAN.—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1332

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND EXAMINATION CERTIFICATES.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1332

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—CONSTABLE BLACK'S ORPHANS.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1333

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON WATERWORKS.—Questions, Mr. Tully and Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1333

OMAGH RURAL DISTRICT RATES.—Question, Mr. Murnaghan and Mr. Tully; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1334

LOUGH NEAGH FLOODS.—Question, Mr. Murnaghan; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1335

MORTALITY AMONGST CALVES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, Mr. Wyndham, ... 1335

ARMAGH MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1336

STEAM TRAWLING (IRELAND) BILL.—Question, Mr. Power; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1337

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE PURCHASE—GERMAN STATE RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1337

OMAGH QUARTER SESSIONS—CASE OF GEORGE FEATHERS.—Question, Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1337

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DUBLIN POST OFFICE—TELEPHONE OPERATORS' WAGE.—GRIEVANCES.—Questions, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answers, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1338

ARMAGH POSTAL OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. John Campbell; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1339

ROYAL COMMISSION ON IRISH UNIVERSITIES.—Question, Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1339

LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT—EQUALISATION OF RATES.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1340

ROAD LABOUR IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1340

CROFTERS ACT (1886) AMENDMENT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1341
SCOTTISH COURT.—Question, Mr. Thomas Dewar; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1341

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Question, Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich); Answer, Mr. Speaker 1341

LOCAL TAXATION COMMISSION REPORT.—Questions, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) and Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1341

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Courtenay Warner and Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1342

SUSPENSION OF THE TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.—Question, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour.. 1343

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put—

"That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if the Committee be sitting at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 245; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 144.)

Army (Annual) Bill [THIRD READING].—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 1347
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 1348
Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield).. 1350
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) .. 1351

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 325; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 145.)

Bill read the third time, and passed.

WAYS AND MEANS.—Considered in Committee.

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

TEA.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed—

" That the Customs duty now charged on tea shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two, that is to say, Tea the pound 6d."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central) 1355
Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 1358

Amendment proposed—

" In line 2, to leave out the words ' first day of August,' and insert the words ' sixth day of March.' "—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed—

" That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 1359

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) 1360
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1360

Amendment proposed—

" In line 4, to leave out the word ' sixpence,' and insert the word ' fourpence.' "—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed—

" That the word ' sixpence ' stand part of the resolution."

Discussion :—

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1366
Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) 1371
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.) 1375
Mr. Herbert Lewis 1377
Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 1379
Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.E.) 1380
Sir M. Hicks Beach 1381
Mr. Dillon 1384
Mr. John Wilson (Durham, Mid) 1390
Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne) 1391
Mr. William Redmond 1393
Sir M. Hicks Beach 1394
Mr. Lough 1394

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 221 ; Noes, 140. (Division List No. 146.)

Original Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 221 ; Noes, 130. (Division List No. 147.)

Resolved, " That the Customs duty now charged on tea shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two, that is to say, Tea, the pound sixpence."

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF CUSTOMS.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the additional duties of Customs on tobacco, beer, and spirits imposed by sections two, three, four, and five of the Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased duties imposed by section five of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. William Redmond 1401

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words 'except that Ireland be exempted from the tax on tobacco.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed—

"That those words be there added."

Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 1404
Sir M. Hicks Beach 1404
Mr. William Redmond 1406

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 56; Noes, 278. (Division List No. 148.)

Original Question again proposed.

Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 1410

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the additional duties of Customs on tobacco, beer, and spirits imposed by sections two, three, four, and five of the Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased duties imposed by Section 5 of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two.

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL DUTY OF EXCISE ON BEER.

3. Motion made, and Amendment proposed—

"That the additional duties of Excise on beer imposed by Section 6 of the Finance Act, 1900, shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1412
Sir M. Hicks Beach 1412

Question put, and agreed to.

GLUCOSE AND SACCHARIN (EXCISE).

4. Resolved, "That there shall be charged on and after the first day of July, nineteen hundred and one, on glucose and saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use), Excise duties equivalent to the Customs duties charged on those articles. And that there shall be charged, on and after the same date, on a licence to be taken out annually by the manufacturer of glucose, invert sugar, or saccharin, an Excise duty of one pound."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

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AMENDMENT OF LAW.

5. Resolved, "That it is expedient to prolong the term of certain annuities and to amend the law relating to the National Debt, the Customs, and the Inland Revenue."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again this day.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, 26TH APRIL, 1901.

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.—Petition of Charles Botolph Joseph, Lord Mowbray, Lord Seagrave, and Baron and Lord Stourton of Stourton, in the county of Wilts, praying that the petition of Henry Duke of Norfolk, presented to this House on the 25th day of February last, be not considered until after he has lodged a printed case disclosing the grounds upon which he claims to be heard in opposition to the Petitioner, and the evidences by which he proposes to substantiate his claim to be Earl of Norfolk under the alleged creation of 1664, and by which he proposes to show that any connection exists between the Earldom of Norfolk, created in 1312 in favour of Thomas Brotherton and his heirs, and the Earldom alleged to have been created in 1644 in favour of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, and his heirs male; read, and referred to the Committee of Privileges 1413

TOOK THE OATH.—The Marquess of Breadalbane took the Oath 1413

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Neath Harbour; Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway. The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1413

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Barry Railway Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed. That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for a Bill by James Godman Rodgers ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill. That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for additional Provision in the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional Provision. Read, and agreed to. 1413

Royal Exchange Assurance Bill [H.L.].—Nitrate Railways Company Bill [H.L.]; Albion Steam Coal Company Bill [H.L.]; Otley Gas Bill [H.L.]; Bethlem Hospital Bill [H.L.]; Bridewell Hospital Bill [H.L.]; Chester Gas Bill [H.L.]. Reported with Amendments. 1414

Warkworth Harbour Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. 1414

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South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 12th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed for Monday next. 1414

Bournemouth Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3*a*. and passed, and sent to the Commons. 1414

South Essex Water Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham (City) Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Wigan Corporation Tramways, etc., Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Worcester Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Great Southern and Western Railway Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, namely:—L. Ribblesdale (chairman), L. Abinger, L. Carew, L. De Mauley, L. Ludlow; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Wednesday next at Eleven of the clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 1414

Leatherhead Gas Bill; Petersfield and Selsey Gas Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1*a*, and referred to the Examiners 1415

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (Acton) Bill [H.L.].—Referred to the Examiners 1415

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—The Proceedings of yesterday relating to the presentation (by Command) of the following Papers, namely:—1. Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school; 2. Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes: Ordered to be vacated 1415

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).—Twenty-third Annual Report of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, being the Sixty-second Annual Report on Prisons in Scotland 1416

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 2577. Netherlands (Amsterdam); No. 2578. Russia (Poland and Lithuania); No. 2579. Finances of the Netherlands for the year 1900-1901; No. 2580. Brazil (Para); No. 2581. United States (New York and District); No. 2582. France (Calais and District) 1416

BOARD OF EDUCATION—

I. General Reports for the year 1900—

1. Eastern Division, by W. E. Currey, Esquire, Chief Inspector;
2. North Central Division, by J. G. Fitzmaurice, Esquire, Chief Inspector;
3. North-Eastern Division, by W. P. Turnbull, Esquire, Chief Inspector;
4. South-Western Division, by J. A. Willis, Esquire, Chief Inspector;

II. Training Colleges, Reports for the year 1900, by—

1. A. Rankine, Esquire, on the Training Colleges for Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses; ...

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2. The Honourable Mrs. Colborne, on needlework in the training colleges for Schoolmistresses;
3. Sir John Stainer, on music in the training colleges for Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses.

III. Statistics of public elementary day schools, evening continuation schools, and certified efficient schools for the year ended 31st August, 1900 1416

ARMY—
I. (Medical Department.) Report for the year 1899. Volume XLI.
II. Report, by Lieut.-General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B., on the operations of the Ninth Division at Paardeberg 1416

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND)—
I. Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school;
II. Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes;
III. Return showing the expenditure from the grant for public education in Scotland in the year 1900 upon annual grants to State-aided schools; the number of schools, and the results of inspection and examination during the year ended 30th September, 1900.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table... 1417

BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883 (PROCEEDINGS).—Account showing the receipts and expenditure on account of bankruptcy proceedings during the year ended 31st March, 1901 1417

COMPANIES WINDING-UP ACT, 1890.—Account showing receipts and expenditure on account of proceedings under the Companies Winding-up Act, 1890, during the year ended 31st March, 1901 1417

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACTS, 1891.—Treasury minute, dated 22nd April, 1901, under the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, directing that the fees and other cash receipts which have hitherto been paid into the Exchequer as extra receipts, in connection with the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland's Office, shall, as from the 1st April, 1901, be treated as appropriations in aid of the money provided by Parliament under that Vote.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1417

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting 1417

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES AND FEVER HOSPITALS (IRELAND)—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon*) 1417

Moved, for a Return showing for each union in Ireland:—

1. The number of beds in workhouse infirmary and fever hospital.
2. The number of patients on 1st January last, or other given day.
3. The number of "trained nurses" as defined by the circular letter of the Local Government for Ireland, No. 4 M./99, Miscellaneous, of 12th January, 1899.
4. The number of nurses other than those "trained" as defined above.
5. The number of paid attendants employed in accordance with the provisions of the Nursing Order, No. 78 M./97, of the 11th September, 1897.
6. The number of pauper inmates employed under Article II. of the last named Order.—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

The Earl of Denbigh 1418

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Ordered to be laid before the House Return showing for each union in Ireland :—

1. The number of beds in workhouse infirmary and fever hospital.
2. The number of patients on 1st January last, or other given day.
3. The number and emoluments of "trained nurses" as defined by the circular letter of the Local Government for Ireland, No. 4 M./99, Miscellaneous, of 12th January, 1899.
4. The number and emoluments of nurses other than those "trained" as defined above.
5. The number of paid attendants with their emolument employed in accordance with the provisions of the Nursing Order, No. 78 M./97, of the 11th September, 1897.
6. The number of pauper inmates employed under Article II. of the last named Order.

Army (Annual) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; Read 1*a*; Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill Read 2*a* (The Lord Raglan); Committee negatived; Bill read 3*a*, and passed 1420

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 26TH APRIL, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London County Council (Money) Bill (Standing Orders Applicable Thereto Complied With).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz:—London County Council (Money) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1420

Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1420

Arlesey Gas Bill [Lords]; London and India Docks (New Works) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1420

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time and passed... 1420

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate and confer powers for the supply of water upon the Oakham Water Company." Oakham Water Bill [Lords]; and also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Urban District Council of King's Norton and Northfield to construct tramways and to make provision in regard to tramways in and in the neighbourhood of the said district; and for other purposes." King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [Lords] 1420

Oakham Water Bill [Lords]; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1421

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Cheltenham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1421

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COAL.—Petition from Hartlepool, against proposed Customs Export Duty; to lie upon the Table 1421

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Woolley and Wharncliffe Woodmoor Collieries; to lie upon the Table 1421

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Mold and Macclesfield; to lie upon the Table 1421

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Guisborough (two); Chiswick; Marston Sicca; Wailingford; Stratford-on-Avon; Crowmarsh, and Brentford; to lie upon the Table ... 1421

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against, from Stockton-on-Tees, and Tamworth; to lie upon the Table 1421

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Hendreforgan; Dunvant; Wharncliffe Woodmoor; and Woolley Colleries; to lie upon the Table 1421

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.—Petitions against establishment, from Stirling; Paisley; Perth; and Greenock; to lie upon the Table ... 1422

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Salisbury (two); Trunch; Hexham; Peterborough (two); Sutton; and Queensbury; to lie upon the Table 1422

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions against, from Wakefield; Gloucester; Shrewsbury; Warrington; and North-West Wilts; to lie upon the table. Petitions in favour, from Nottingham; Dartmouth (two); Sheffield (two); Hornsey; Birmingham; Gainsborough; Glasgow (two); Hamilton; St. Asaph; West Tanfield; and Barnsley; to lie upon Table 1422

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Hawick, against; to lie upon the Table. Petitions in favour, from Lecroft; Urr; Dundee; Kirkcudbright; Kilninian and Kilmore; Falkirk; Garmouth; and Forres; to lie upon the Table ... 1422

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petitions against, from Whitley Bay; Akeley: and Alderford; to lie upon the Table 1422

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Dundee, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1422

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ULTIMUS HÆRES (SCOTLAND) (ACCOUNT AND LIST OF ESTATES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th April; *Mr. Austen Chamberlain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 137.] 1422

BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883 (PROCEEDINGS).—Account presented, showing the Receipts and Expenditure on account of Bankruptcy Proceedings during the year ended 31st March 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 138.] 1424

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd April, 1901, under the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, directing that the Fees and other Cash Receipts which have hitherto been paid into the Exchequer as extra Receipts, in connection with the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland's Office, shall, as from the 1st April, 1901, be treated as appropriations in aid of the money provided by Parliament under that Vote [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1424

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POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th April; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 139.] 1424

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Return showing the Expenditure from the Grant for Public Education in Scotland in the year 1900 upon Annual Grants to State-aided Schools; the number of Schools; and the results of Inspection and Examination during the year ended 30th September 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1424

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).—.Copy presented, of Twenty-third Annual Report of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, being the Sixty-second Annual Report on Prisons in Scotland, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. 1424

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (CONTINUATION CLASSES).—Copy presented, of (1) Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school; (2) Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. 1424

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND (TECHNICAL EDUCATION).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th June, 1900; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 140.]... 1424

BOARD OF EDUCATION (GENERAL REPORTS).—Copy presented, of General Report for the year 1900 by the Chief Inspectors of the Eastern Division, North-Eastern Division, South-Western Division, and the North Central Division [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1424

BOARD OF EDUCATION (TRAINING COLLEGES).—Copy presented, of Reports relating to Training Colleges for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1424

BOARD OF EDUCATION (PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, ETC.).—Copy presented, of Statistics of Public Elementary Schools, Evening Continuation Schools, and Certified Efficient Schools for the year ended 31st August, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1424

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the month of December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1424

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2579 to 2582 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1424

NEW WRIT.

MONMOUTH BOROUGHS.—Ordered, That Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new Writ for the electing of a Member to serve in this present Parliament for the Monmouth Boroughs, in the room of Frederick Rutherfoord Harris, esquire, whose election has been declared void.—(*Sir William Walrond*)... 1424

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE ANNEXED REPUBLICS.—Question, Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1425

JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY.—Questions, Mr. Black and Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain) 1425

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TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA—STATISTICAL RETURN.—Question, Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1428

FARMS BURNED BY BOERS.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 1428

LINDLEY DISASTER—GENERAL COLVILE AND COLONEL SPRAGGE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1428

SANNA'S POST DISASTER.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1429

EXPENDITURE ON HOSPITALS AND AUXILIARIES' PAY—Question, Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1429

WAR MEDALS—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Westminster); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1430

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POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK FINANCE.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.)... 1434

TAXATION OF SHIP OWNERS.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach... 1435

PROFESSIONAL MEN AND THE INCOME TAX.—Questions, Mr. John Morley (Montrose Burghs), and Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1436

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SWINE IMPORTATION INTO WIGTONSHIRE.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 1440

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LAND TRANSFER ACT—APPLICATION OF COMPULSORY CLAUSES TO THE CITY OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith; Answer, The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 1442

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ARDAGH BURIAL GROUND.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1446

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CASTLEREA AND BALLAGHADERREEN WATER RATES.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1448

KING HARMAN (LONGFORD) ESTATE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1448

IRISH CREAMERIES.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork Co., N.E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1449

IRISH CONSTABLES AND EVICTED TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.) Mr. Dillon and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1450

SMALL POX AT LISBURN.—Questions, Mr. Daly and Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1451

DAVID FINLAY'S ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. M'Govern; Answer, Mr. Wyndham... 1451

TREATMENT OF INSANE PRISONERS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1452

FERMANAGH ROMAN CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. M'Govern; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1451

TRUCK ACT—DEAN *v.* BOYLE.—Question, Mr. Tennant; Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1452

THE PROSECUTION OF MR. P. A. M'HUGH, M.P.—PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DUBLIN NEWSPAPERS.—Question, Mr Flynn; Answer, Mr. Atkinson ... 1454

LAND COMMISSION ADVANCES—SMALL HOLDINGS.—Question, Colonel Nolan; Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1455

IRISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1455

IRISH EX-POLITICAL PRISONERS—POLICE BLUNDERS.—Questions, Mr. Nannetti and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Ritchie 1455

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.—Questions. Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.), Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.), Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.), Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), Mr. Whitley and Capt. Norton; Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 1456

WAR RELIEF FUNDS COMMITTEE.—Questions, Mr. Bartley and Mr. Kearley; Answers, Mr. Brodrick and Mr. A. J. Balfour 1458

GIBRALTAR HARBOUR WORKS—THE RECENT INQUIRY.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1459

PROPOSED MINISTER OF COMMERCE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1460

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS MAJESTY'S ACCESSION—THE MISSION TO CONSTANTINOPLE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1460

STANDING COMMITTEES.—Ordered, That all Standing Committees have leave to print, and circulate with the Votes, the Minutes of their proceedings and any amended clauses of Bills committed to them. (*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*) 1460

NEW BILLS.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT (NO. 3).—Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Joseph Walton, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Pickard, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Mr. Caine, Mr. Barlow, and Mr. Tennant.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1879) Amendment (No. 3) Bill.—"To amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 7th May, and to be printed. [Bill 148.] 1461

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Bill to amend the Law relating to Factories and Workshops, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Tennant, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Talbot, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Haldane, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, and Mr. M'Kenna.

Factories and Workshops Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Factories and Workshops," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 7th May, and to be printed. [Bill 149.] ... 1461

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (WALES, INCLUDING MONMOUTHSHIRE).—Bill to provide for improving and extending the procedure for obtaining Parliamentary powers by way of Provisional Orders in matters relating to Wales, including Monmouthshire, ordered to be brought in by Mr. D. A. Thomas, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. M'Kenna, and Mr. Bryn Roberts.

Private Legislation Procedure (Wales, including Monmouthshire) Bill.—"To provide for improving and extending the procedure for obtaining Parliamentary powers by way of Provisional Orders in matters relating to Wales, including Monmouthshire," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 11th June, and to be printed. [Bill 150.] 1461

SUPPLY [4TH ALLOTTED DAY].—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901-2.

CLASS III.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £32,443, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, for the Salaries of the Law Officers' Department; the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions; the Costs of Prosecutions, of other Legal Proceedings, and of Parliamentary Agency."

Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1462
The Attorney General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 1465
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 1467
Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 1469
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 1470
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 1472
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1473

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £6,000, in respect of the Salary of the Attorney General."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) ... 1479
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 1480

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 109; Noes, 320. (Division List No. 149.)

Original Question again proposed—

Mr. Caldwell 1485

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item A (Salaries), be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Attorney General."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Sir Robert Finlay 1487
Mr. Asquith 1489
Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 1491
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 1492
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1495
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouth Boroughs*) 1497
Mr. Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*) 1498
... *Mr. George Whiteley* (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*)... 1499
Mr Gibson Bowles... 1500
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 1502
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.*) ... 1503
Mr. Herbert Lewis (*Flint Boroughs*) 1504
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 1504

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 152; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 150.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Goddard (*Ipswich*) 1507

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That Item H be reduced by £600, in respect of the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

Sir Robert Finlay 1510
Mr. Caine (*Cornwall, Camborne*) 1510
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 1513
Sir Robert Finlay 1515
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 1519
Major Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*)... 1520
Mr. Lloyd Morgan (*Carmarthenshire, W.*) 1520
Mr. Cremer (*Shoreditch, Haggerston*) 1521
Sir Robert Finlay 1523
Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*)... 1523
Mr. George Whiteley 1525
Mr. Lloyd-George 1526
··· *The Solicitor General* (*Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University*) 1527
Dr. Ambrose (*Mayo, W.*) 1528

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 102: Noes, 147. (Division List, No. 151.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and question proposed—"That a sum, not exceeding £22,504, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to

defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."

Mr. George Whiteley 1531
Mr. Caldwell 1532
Sir Robert Finlay... 1533
Mr. Goddard 1533

Motion made and Question proposed—

"That Item A (Repayments to Sheriffs' Expenses) be reduced by £800."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) 1534
Mr. Soames (*Norfolk, S.*) 1535
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.*) 1536
Mr. Gibson Bowles 1536
Sir Henry Fowler... 1538
Mr. Lloyd-George 1538
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid*) 1539
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1540
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 1540
Sir Thomas Esmonde 1540
Mr. Whitley 1541
Sir Edward Carson 1541
Mr. Ure (*Linlithgowshire*)... 1541
Sir John Dorrington (*Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury*) 1541
Mr. Labouchere 1542
Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1542

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 181. (Division List No. 152.)

Original Question again proposed—

Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 1545
Mr. Cripps (*Lancashire, Stretford*) 1547
Mr. Herbert Lewis 1548
Mr. Lough 1550
Sir Albert Rollit 1551
Mr. Herbert Lewis 1552

Motion made, and Question put—

"That Item B (Salaries of Railway and Canal Commissioners) be reduced by £200."—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 112; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 153.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Eugene Wason (*Clackmannan and Kinross*) 1555

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That Item L be reduced by £500, in respect of Grants in Aid of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Sir Henry Fowler... 1556
Sir Robert Finlay 1559
Mr. Labouchere 1560
Mr. Gibson Bowles 1562

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 168; Noes, 94. (Division List No. 154.)

Question put accordingly, "That Item L be reduced by £500, in respect of Grants in Aid of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 94; Noes 165. (Division List No. 155.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £22,504, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 169; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 156.)

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock till Monday.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOLUME XCII.

ERRATUM, Vol. XC.

12th March, 1901.—Colonel Nolan (page 1374): Delete from the word "trouble," in line 29, to the word "honour" in line 33, and substitute: "If the conduct of anybody had to be investigated, it was his conduct that should have been investigated by a court-martial. It must, however, be most distinctly understood that he imputed nothing against the honour of Colonel Spragge."

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

FOURTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 28*th March*, 1901.

SAT FIRST.

The Duke of Wellington sat first in Parliament after the death of his brother.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Viscount Bangor took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills, for petitions respecting, see page

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with—Worcester Tramways [H.L.]; and also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with—Rodgers' Patent (Petition for Bill).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Petition for additional provision, of the South Eastern Railway Company, the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company, and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee; together with the proposed clauses and Amendments annexed thereto; read, and referred to the Examiners.

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

SHIELDS BRIDGE BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

ALFRETON GAS BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

OMAGH GAS BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

LONDON (CITY) SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS OF FREEMEN BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

LOWESTOFT CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

ARLESEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [H.L.].

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

WARKWORTH HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

PORTMADOC, BEDDGELERT, AND SOUTH SNOWDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT) GAS BILL [H.L.].

WISBECH WATER BILL [H.L.].

HARPENDEN DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH-WESTERN AND ISLE OF WIGHT JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:—

E. Albemarle,
E. Lauderdale (chairman),
E. Verulam,
V. Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*),
L. Lilford.

Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Tuesday the 23rd of April next, at Eleven of the clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (CANADA DOCK WORKS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER (MARKET STREET AREA) IMPROVEMENTS BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL ELECTRIC EXPRESS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:—

E. Tankerville,
V. Falkland (chairman),
V. Bangor,
V. Frankfort de Montmorency,
L. Wrottesley.

Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Tuesday the 23rd of April next, at Eleven of the clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

Order of the day for the Second Reading, read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Chairman of Committees*).

Lord EBURY: My Lords, when this Bill was before the Standing Orders Committee, I understood my noble friend the Chairman of Committees to tell the promoters that in regard to a very material, and, from my point of view, a very objectionable part of the Bill, the Standing Order had not been complied with and it could not be dispensed with in their behalf. In the very brief epitome of the proceedings before the

Standing Orders Committee which was distributed to your Lordships, it seemed to me that that decision of my noble friends—in the absence of which, as he is aware, I should have felt it to be my duty to enter an emphatic protest against the Second Reading—was very inaccurately expressed. I have gathered incidentally that before this Bill goes to a Committee some of its most objectionable features will have to be expunged. Meanwhile, however, it comes before your Lordships in an unamended form, and if it were now read a second time without comment or explanation the inevitable result would be much local misunderstanding, much needless expense, and much prejudice to the case of those who, at a later stage of the present session, or in a future session, may desire to oppose the Bill. In these circumstances I have felt justified in troubling my noble friend with the question that stands in my name—namely, Whether he will state the circumstances under which it is proposed to read the Bill a second time. I shall be quite satisfied if he is able to tell me that that portion of the Bill, in regard to which the Standing Orders have not been complied with, will not be submitted during the present session to a Committee of your Lordships' House.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I think I can give my noble friend the assurance he desires. The tramway proposed in the Bill consisted of three parts. One part went through the urban district of Watford, another through the rural district of Watford, and the remaining mile-and-a-half through the urban district of Rickmansworth. The two urban districts had consented to the Bill, but the rural district of Watford, through which the longer length of the tramway was marked out, had not consented. The consequence was that under your Lordships' Standing Orders the Examiners reported a non-compliance. The promoters desired that the Standing Order should be dispensed with. The position I took up was that that portion of the tramway which went through the Watford rural district, and in respect of which the local authority had refused their consent, should be excluded altogether from the Bill; but I said that if the promoters thought it worth their while to proceed with the Bill including only the tramways going through the districts that had given their consent I should not oppose it. They said, at the time, that probably it would not be worth while going on with the Bill, but I now see that they desire to do so. On the distinct understanding that the Bill should be amended I allowed it to proceed. These are the circumstances under which the Bill now comes before your Lordships for Second Reading.

LORD EBURY: I am quite satisfied with my noble friend's explanation.

On Question agreed to, Bill read 2^a accordingly.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2566. United States (Chicago and District).

No. 2567. Chili (Coquimbo).

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Code of regulations for Day Schools; with schedules and appendices.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Amending General Order for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Act.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (MANUFACTURE OF EARTHENWARE AND CHINA).

Amended special rules for the manufacture of earthenware and china.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACTS.

Minutes sanctioning the subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, for the—

1. County Borough of South Shields (4th minute);
2. County of Glamorgan (10th minute).

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading, read.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, the object of this measure and of the Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill, which is also down for Second Reading, is to remove certain anomalies which have arisen. Having regard to the constitutional severance of Peers from anything to do with elections or polling districts, I feel that in having a Bill of this nature entrusted to me I am rather in the position of a nun who had undertaken some alteration in the marriage laws. But I suppose I shall be allowed to move its Second Reading. Similar Bills were brought in in 1897, 1898, and 1899. In the latter year nothing was done, because it was expected that some provision would be inserted in the Local Government Act of last year, which would affect the question. Such, however, did not turn out to be the case. The Home Secretary, in reply to a communication from the London County Council, said he had no observations to offer with regard to the Bill, and we therefore assumed that his silence gave consent. As your Lordships are probably aware, the authorities who arrange the polling districts differ, and the effect of this Bill will be to make the county councils all over England the sole authority for settling the polling districts in Parliamentary electoral divisions just as they are in county council electoral divisions.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Earl of HARDWICKE): In the absence of the noble Lord who represents the Home Office, I am asked to state that my right hon. friend Mr. Ritchie has no objection to offer to the Bill; but he wishes it to be clearly understood that he can give no guarantee to support it.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, this Bill hangs almost entirely on the previous one. As I explained a moment ago, the County Council polling districts are fixed by the County Council, but, in the opinion of Sir Edward Clarke and Sir Robert Finlay, when once they are fixed they cannot possibly be altered. This may lead to all sorts of difficulties, for a place which is very convenient at one cycle of years may become, owing to the circumstances of population, very inconvenient at another. The object of this Bill is to give county councils the power of altering any polling district from time to time.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: This Bill concerns the Local Government Board as well as the Home Office, and I am asked to state that neither body offers any objection to the Bill, but they cannot give any pledge to support it.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: Are we to understand from that that they oppose it?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: At this stage they do not oppose it, but I do not know what they may see fit to do at a future stage.

On Question, agreed to, Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

TRANSVAAL CONCESSIONS COMMISSION.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I beg to ask whether the Report of the Transvaal Concessions Commission will be presented to Parliament; and, if not, to move for the production of that part of the Report which refers to the Transvaal railways. It will be in your Lordships' recollection that some months ago His Majesty's Government appointed a Commission to inquire into concessions in the Transvaal. That Commission has, I believe, concluded its labours, and either has reported or is on the point of reporting; and in the present condition of affairs in South Africa it is very important that Parliament should be possessed as soon as possible of the conclusions of this Commission. There are two classes of concessions in the Transvaal, the ordinary concessions, such as the dynamite monopoly, and, secondly, the railways. The question of the railways is of special interest to this country at the present moment. A year ago I called your Lordships' attention to this subject, and I obtained certain Returns which showed the nature of the property of these railways. It was very clear, even at that time, that on the solution of the question of the railways would depend the solution of the most important points in the South African difficulty. That is much more evident now. In the early future we shall have to inquire very closely into the transactions of the Transvaal Railway Companies, and certain very important questions will have to be discussed, to which I have no doubt attention will be called in this House.

During the war we have had to contend with no less than three belligerents —the two Republics and also the Netherlands Railway Company. When I call the Netherlands Railway Company a belligerent I do so advisedly, for the injury which has been done by that railway, when it comes to be measured, will be found to be very great indeed. When I make such a bold statement as to call that railway a belligerent, I do so on unimpeachable authority—that of the General Manager. All the letter books of the Netherlands Railway were supposed to have been destroyed, but, fortunately, the General Manager had written letters to his Board and to private persons, which came into the possession of the Commission. Writing on 28th April, 1900, to two of his co-directors in Holland, the General Manager said—

"Dear Sirs,—Your remarks with regard to the strict neutrality of the Netherlands South Africa Railway are not refreshing to me, especially as they come now that the chances have turned against the Boers. If it should come to the worst, and the English become masters here, I am afraid that we have hopelessly compromised ourselves, in deed, word, and writing. We have made cannon and ammunition; we have sold material to the Republic; we have blown up bridges on English territory, and have not discharged our staff on commando. We have assisted the Orange Free State with advice, and, indeed, with persons and material. There are in existence letters, telegrams, and living witnesses that we have strongly supported the Government in its defence. I have everything covered as much as possible by orders, but I have never yet attempted the appearance that we object to carrying out all of them. On the contrary, there are proofs that we have been only too willing to do everything that is in the interest of the Republic. How could it be otherwise? We have always sounded it—how we serve the interests of the State, and how the Government could always reckon on us in difficult circumstances. Yes; how we always were *plus royal que le roi*. Everybody knows that, and I can well understand that our Holland gang is not beloved in London."

It may be argued that they were asked under coercion and could not help themselves, as, under Article 22 of the Concession, the Government of the Transvaal had the power to make use of all the railways. But, later on in this letter, the General Manager says—

"We have, it is true, done things that we were not obliged to do according to the letter of the Concession. For instance, I might have said, 'Our workshops cannot make or repair cannon, we cannot shoe horses, make any tents, any ammunition, etc., we have no one who can work with dynamite.' We were not obliged to lend men to the Orange Free State. I could have said, 'We are not going to pay our men on commando.' We were not obliged to exploit railways outside the State, and our neutrality prohibits us from entering into agreements to that effect. I could have said, 'I have no material for this or that commando; our oil is finished, and now we cannot run,' etc. I would like to know how soon I would then have gone the way of the manager of the Pretoria-Pietersburg line, who was immediately put over the border when he tried to maintain his neutrality. I would also, then, have liked to hear your judgment—you who were proud of it when you heard of the Z.A.S.M. (Netherlands Railway) deed of heroism in the destruction of bridges, etc.—you who wished for further *data* in order to make mention in your yearly report of the active part we took in the defence of the country. The adversities of the Republics must have sorely touched you in order to make you all of a sudden so anxiously neutral."

Your Lordships will see that the General Manager clearly implicates himself. He not only implicates himself, but his board also. In a private letter, dated 13th February, he said—

"Confirming my telegram of even date, I must inform you that it is my intention to assist the Government of the Orange Free State as much as possible by exploiting the railways in Cape Colony, and that we must, therefore, provide Van Eelde, whom they have charged with it, with a good set of men."

Your Lordships must remember that this is a private railway in the Transvaal Republic, which turns itself into an active belligerent and takes part in the fighting in the Orange Free State. Writing on 28th February—the day of the relief of Ladysmith—the General Manager said—

"We have withdrawn our railway servants at Modder Spruit, and taken the rolling-stock back to Glencoe. All cannon also brought over. All bridges and culverts between Modder Spruit and Elandslaagte have been destroyed. Westenberg (one of the chief engineers), with his destruction staff, forms the rear guard."

That was, the rear guard of the Boer Army. All this has appeared in evidence, and it is clear that the board are implicated. They had attacked us in Natal, had blown up bridges in Natal, had fought against us in the Transvaal, had made cartridges and cannon for use against us, and had actively assisted the Boers in every way; and when finally our troops reached Standerton the Railway Company actively opposed us by destroying engines. Ultimately nearly the whole of the railway staff were driven from the Transvaal and exported from Delagoa Bay as undesirables. Is there such another instance in history where a private company has attacked a foreign Power with which it had nothing to do, not limiting itself to defending the country in which its property lay, but invading outside territory and doing all the damage possible? What we desire to know is the extent of the damage done by the company and the amount of the indemnity they will be required to pay. For that information it is essential to have the Report of the Commission, and I hope that it will be laid before Parliament with as little delay as possible. It may be said that there are innocent shareholders of the company in various parts of the world. The point we urge is that the shareholders have nothing whatever to do with the matter. The question is the responsibility and liability of the Board of Directors. Your Lordships will no doubt be troubled with the matter again, but for the present I will content myself by asking the question standing in my name.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ONSLOW): The noble Lord began his remarks by saying that the Report of the Commission either had been, or was about to be, presented. The latter is the correct recital of the facts. The Report has not yet been seen, even in draft, by the Secretary of State or myself, but within the last few moments I have obtained information from the Chairman of the Commission that the Report is in the printers' hands and likely to be ready for the Secretary of State in the course of a week or so. The noble Earl will agree with me that, as the Report has not yet been seen by the Secretary of State, it is impossible to say whether it can be presented to Parliament or not, but the remarks of the noble Earl, on which I do not propose to follow him, will, of course, engage the attention of the Secretary of State.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I would suggest, as the Report will probably be of considerable length, that, if it should be decided to lay it before Parliament, it may be well to divide it into two parts, separating the Report upon the railway from other matters.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: The suggestion of the noble Earl shall receive consideration.

CHINA—PRESENT POSITION AND POLICY.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I beg to ask the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can communicate to the House the latest information as to our position in China, stating especially—

1. Whether military operations have been concluded, and if there is prospect of the Allies withdrawing their forces at an early date.
2. What is the present state of the negotiations with the Government of China, and whether the Powers are agreed in their demands.
3. Whether the Anglo-German agreement applies to Manchuria, and, if not, whether there was any understanding, verbal or otherwise, at the time of negotiation which excluded Manchuria from the agreement.
4. Whether, since Sir C. Scott's despatch of 6th February, 1901, there has been any convention between Russia and China, and, if so, whether the terms of such convention can be made known.
5. Whether the large interests held by British in the two railways from Shan-hai-Kwan to Neu-chwang, and from Shan-hai-Kwan to Tientsin, are being duly protected.

6. Whether any further control of railways in Mongolia has been granted by the Chinese Government to Russia, and, if so, what attitude His Majesty's Government have taken in regard to this question.

I do not propose to do more than offer a few remarks as preface to the questions standing in my name; but I feel I ought to explain how it is I put these somewhat numerous questions to the noble Marquess. I shall not attempt to go into the whole question of our position in China, where matters of a most momentous kind have happened within the last two years. I will only briefly refer to what has occurred since last summer. In the interval very grave events have happened. There have been serious conflicts between European and Chinese troops, not only with rebels called Boxers, but I fear it is almost clear that conflicts have occurred with troops of the Chinese Government. There has been a siege of the Legations at Peking, and an heroic defence of those Legations by those who were there with very few soldiers or Marines, the defenders showing an amount of resource, bravery, energy, and ability which will long remain on record as one of the most eventful sieges of the present era. Besides this, there have been severe conflicts on the Chinese frontier between Russian and Chinese forces; there have been murders of missionaries and others in various parts of the Chinese Empire and great destruction of private property belonging to British and other nations. Moreover, the Chinese Government has fled from Peking, and we have practically no Chinese Government to deal with at this moment. All these events have led to very serious political complications, and to great disturbances of the peaceful pursuance of commerce.

I need hardly say that the deepest anxiety has prevailed in this country with regard to all these matters on account of the very great and deep interest our people have in China. We have very little information in regard to these matters. No doubt, there are certain Blue-books, but these, if I am not mistaken, do not carry the history of these affairs beyond 30th September last. In this House we have not had a debate on these subjects since last summer. Some incidental remarks were made last autumn and at the opening of this session by the Prime Minister, but I am sure of this—that since the noble Marquess has held the seals of the Foreign Office he has not been asked a single question with regard to foreign affairs. We on this Bench have been reluctant to bring forward any question upon this difficult and tangled subject that might in any way embarrass His Majesty's Government. At the same time, there have been in another place questions asked and, in a certain degree, answered; and at Berlin the Minister for Foreign Affairs has, on one occasion if not more, made a long and serious speech in reference to China. We feel, therefore, we cannot remain without giving an opportunity to the noble Marquess of stating the most recent facts which he is able to state with regard to what is going on in China, and the policy of His Majesty's Government. I will go further and say that Parliament and the country have a right to the fullest information on this subject, upon which our interests are so gravely affected. I ought to say, perhaps, that there was one question asked last week with reference to incidents at Tientsin. I have put down a long string of questions. The noble Marquess, when I mentioned the subject to him, hoped I should be able to tell him the points on which I desired information, and I thought it better to be explicit, even if I ran into length, than to put a general question, and to amplify that general question in the course of my speech. This is the history of the somewhat lengthy questions of which I have given notice.

A few words on the general policy of the Government. First of all, His Majesty's Government desire to obtain redress for outrages committed upon British subjects at our Legation, and the punishment of those who so grossly violated international law. They also wish to obtain security for life and property in the future, but, so far as I know, the two paramount principles guiding His Majesty's Government are these:—To maintain undiminished the territorial condition of the Chinese Empire; that is the first point, and I am not quite sure that if we examine the events that have taken place we can say that His Majesty's Government have been altogether successful. But I do not stay to dilate on this. The other point is to see that the ports on the rivers and littoral of China remain open to international trade and legitimate purposes of commercial activity. These are, I think, the two cardinal supports upon which His Majesty's Government base their policy in China. I am quite aware that there are other questions affecting China to which some people attach even greater importance than those I have put on the Paper. There is the question of the Yang-tsze Valley and our influence there, and the Peking-Hankow Railway; the questions of Canton and the West River, in which we have great interest. There is also the serious question of Korea and Japan, and what are the relations between Russia and Japan with regard to it. I only refer to these matters now in order that if the noble Marquess should make a comprehensive statement with regard to China he may be willing to give us some information, and if he is able to do so it will give great satisfaction to Parliament and the country. We on this Bench, and I believe every one in the country, trust that we shall hear that there is good feeling and co-operation among all the different Powers now operating and working together in China, and I sincerely trust the good feeling between Russia and this country, which apparently brought about the satisfactory conclusion of the incident of Tientsin which seemed at one time so dangerous, will be typical of the goodwill and good feeling which prevail among all the nations now engaged in China.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I readily concede that the noble Earl has a perfect right to question His Majesty's Government upon this important subject, and I admit the forbearance which he has shown in postponing this discussion until the present time. I will endeavour to reply to the questions which he has put to me. The noble Earl asked in the first place whether military operations had been concluded, and if there were a prospect of the Allies withdrawing their forces from China at an early date. As he told your Lordships, the British forces went to China for the purpose of bringing about the relief of the Legations. I may be allowed to express my concurrence with what was said by the noble Earl as to the heroic character of that defence—a brilliant and ever-memorable chapter in the history of this country. That purpose has fortunately been achieved, and at this moment, so far as I am aware, no military operations, no new movement of troops, are in progress or in contemplation.

Your Lordships are aware that from the first the Government have laid it down clearly that it was not their desire that British forces should be employed in military operations in the remoter parts of China, and to that policy we adhere. A short time ago we became aware that Field-Marshal Count von Waldersee had issued an order to the forces under his command to hold themselves ready for fresh operations. The scope of these operations was, very properly, not divulged. All it was necessary for us to do in those circumstances was to instruct General Gaselee that before taking part in them he should refer home to His Majesty's Government. There is another purpose for which it seems to me that—for a time, at any rate—the presence of a British force in Northern China is indispensable. If your Lordships have carried in your minds the joint Note which was presented by the allies to China, you will remember that, at the conclusion of the document, it was stated that—

> "Until the Chinese Government have complied with the above conditions to the satisfaction of the Powers the undersigned can hold out no expectation that the occupation of Peking and Pe-chi-li by the allied forces could be brought to a conclusion."

I think we are hardly yet in a position to say that the compliance of the Chinese Government has been of such a character as to justify the withdrawal of the allied forces. But I need not assure the House that it will be our earnest endeavour to press on the negotiations; and we have every hope that, before long, it may be possible for us to withdraw, or, at any rate, largely diminish the number of British troops now serving in that part of China.

My Lords, the noble Earl questioned me with regard to the progress of the negotiations. I am afraid we must admit that that progress has been slow. That is a matter for regret, but scarcely a matter for surprise. I do not suppose that, in the history of diplomacy, there have ever been negotiations carried on under conditions less calculated to bring about an expeditious settlement. I would ask your Lordships to consider what these conditions are. You have, on the one hand, China. The Chinese Government is used to methods of diplomacy which are not entirely in accord with those to which we are accustomed and which do not, perhaps, conduce greatly to rapid and satisfactory progress. But, at this moment, as the noble Earl told the House, China is, I will not say without a central Government, but her Government is a refugee Government established in a remote provincial town; and we have to negotiate as best we can—sometimes with that Government, sometimes with plenipotentiaries at Peking, sometimes through the medium of other high Chinese officials. On the other hand, you have, not a single Power, but no fewer than eleven Powers, with eleven representatives sitting in conference at Peking. It is surely not a matter for surprise that amongst those Governments and those representatives there should be room for divergences of opinion, which naturally tend to prolong the course of negotiations.

There is also to be considered the difficulty of the subjects which are under discussion at Peking. They are numerous and full of complexity. The representatives of the Powers have to deal with the reparation to be exacted from China; with the measures necessary to prevent the recurrence of these unfortunate events; with the indemnification of the Governments and private persons who have been put to expense and loss during the recent incidents; and last, but not least, with the financial measures which will be necessary in order to provide the revenues required for the satisfaction of the demands which will be made. When we consider the conditions I have described, I think we can scarcely be astonished that the negotiations should not have proceeded with very great rapidity. In these circumstances we may, at any rate, find some consolation in the reflection that on certain broad questions of policy there is practical unanimity among the Powers. Those principles are, I take it, that we are not at war with China; that we desire to derive no territorial advantages from these events; that we recognise as binding all existing treaty obligations; and, with regard to commercial and economical questions, that we desire to observe what is commonly known as the policy of the open door, and that within those particular spheres where preferential rights have been accorded to certain Powers there should be equality of opportunity for all other Powers concerned.

With regard to the negotiations, the House will remember that in the last days of last year the Allies agreed to the joint Note which I quoted a moment ago. That Note was accepted by the Chinese Government, and we have since been negotiating with regard to the measures necessary in order to secure compliance with the conditions embodied in the Note. It would be quite impossible for me, in reply to the question of the noble Earl, to review those negotiations in detail. But I can give him some information with regard to a few of the more interesting points. There is, in the first place, the controversy that has arisen with regard to the punishment of certain highly-placed officials who were responsible for the outrages committed at Peking and elsewhere. The Note places on record the view of the Powers that the severest punishment, in proportion to their crimes, is due to those persons. We should have preferred that the Note should have placed on record that these persons deserved not merely the severest punishment, but the death penalty; we believe that that, and that only, was the appropriate penalty in such cases. In deference, however, to the views of his colleagues, our representative accepted the formula I have just quoted, but, on the understanding that in the most flagrant cases "the severest punishment," in proportion to their crimes, meant the infliction of the death penalty.

Up to the present time, out of eleven persons who were referred to in the Note, I find that death sentences have been passed on three and carried out in two cases, that three other persons have been, in accordance with the custom of the country, permitted to put an end to their own existence, and that, in the case of three more, the sentence of punishment and degradation has been passed. I cannot, of course, say whether these latter sentences have been actually enforced. Then, my Lords, there is the clause with regard to the Legation guards and the occupation of certain posts to secure communication between Peking and the sea. As to that, considerable progress has been made. I do not detect any very material difference between the views which have been expressed by the representatives of the different Powers. Our instructions to our representative have been that he should be moderate in his demands: we have told him that it is not our desire that Peking should be turned into a sort of fortress or cantonment, but that we wish the strength of the Legation guards to be sufficient only for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the Legations in case of sudden emergency or disorder.

The question which, I think, is at this moment most engaging the attention of the Conference in Peking is the extremely difficult question of the indemnities. These, of course, fall under two heads. There are the national indemnities which the Powers will require in satisfaction of the expense to which they have been put by these military operations, and there are the private claims put forward by individuals, companies, associations, missionaries, and so on, who have suffered loss. We have to determine how much is to be claimed under these different heads. When we have ascertained that, we shall have to decide whether the whole or only a part of the demands is to be pressed. And then will arise the question of the sources from which China is to obtain the necessary revenue in order to satisfy the interest on any debt which she may be obliged to incur for the purpose of meeting the claims. I can only indicate in general terms the principles which we are endeavouring to follow. We think that in regard to the war indemnities our claims should be limited to the actual cost incurred in these operations, and in the case of the private claims we also desire to exclude what are usually described as indirect or consequential claims. The Committee of the Representatives in Peking have reported as to the principles upon which it is thought desirable to proceed, and their Report is under our consideration at this moment. There has also been a small committee appointed, under the immediate direction of the British Legation, to examine and classify the claims put forward by British subjects. We have expressed our opinion that, when these claims have been examined they should be presented to the Chinese Government, not by each Power individually, but by the Powers acting collectively.

With regard to the sources from which the Chinese Government might obtain the necessary increase of revenue for the purpose of meeting these indemnities, we have obtained a good deal of evidence from experts as to the possibility of tapping new sources of revenue. Here again I should like to say that our opinion is that we should avoid imposing upon China a burden which could properly be described as of a crushing or overwhelming nature. Our policy has been to respect the existence of China as a Power; and we think that we should be setting to work in a wrong way to give effect to that policy if we were to impose upon China a burden heavier than it was possible for her to bear. One of the sources of new revenue which has been most considered is the Maritime Customs. The Maritime Customs, imposed under the Treaty of Tientsin and the earlier Treaty of Nanking, contemplated a tariff of 5 per cent., *ad valorem.* These *ad valorem* duties have been converted, or at any rate largely converted, into specific duties, and at the present values the actual payment which is made represents not 5 per cent., but a very much smaller per centage. We think, therefore, that the duties might be re-adjusted so as to produce a real 5 per cent. instead of the smaller per centage which they actually yield. There are also, it appears, a considerable number of articles which pass duty free, and we see no reason why these should not be made subject to duty.

But, my Lords, when we attempt to go further, and consider whether the Customs tariff should be very largely increased in connection with the payment of the indemnities, we feel that we cannot proceed with too great caution. We have to bear in mind several considerations. In the first place we have to remember that of the whole external trade of China over 60 per cent. belongs to this country, while of the shipping which carries that trade 84 per cent. is British. Well, it is quite clear that if we were to agree to a very large increase in the Customs tariff we should, on the one hand, stand to gain a few millions in the shape of an increased indemnity, but we might do so at the risk of greatly crippling and interfering with the important British commerce that is now being carried on with the Chinese Empire. That is not all, because it is also evident that largely increased Customs duties might operate as a kind of protection for Chinese industries, and we should be face to face with this possibility—that new industries, using, no doubt, European machinery and managed by Europeans, but employing Chinese labour, might be established under the shelter of the new tariff in China, greatly to the detriment of, and most unfairly to, our own industries here.

There is a third consideration which seems to me, if possible, more important still, and it is this. In the 11th article of the joint Note it is provided that the Chinese Government is to negotiate in regard to amendments of the treaties of commerce and navigation considered useful by the Powers, and also as to other subjects connected with commercial relations with the object of facilitating them. We hope that when the time comes for giving effect to that clause we may find it possible to make alterations in our commercial relations with China which will be largely advantageous to the commerce of this country. We look forward in particular to relieving that commerce of some of those extremely irksome and corruptly administered inland duties which are familiar to your Lordships under the name of *likin*. Now, if *likin* is ever to be dealt with, that will mean that you will withdraw from the provincial administrations of China the greater part of the income on which they now depend. It is the income upon which they depend, not only for their civil, but for their naval and military administration; and it will therefore be necessary to put in the place of any provincial income that may be thus taken away from the provinces some other available source of revenue. We think that if the question of the Customs tariff is ever to be taken in hand on a large scale, it should certainly be in connection with a well-considered scheme of financial reform, and with a general revision of the commercial arrangements existing between us and China.

There is another observation which I should like to make in passing. It is that we do not desire to take advantage of this opportunity in order to impose upon China a number of internal or domestic reforms. We do not think that that is our business. It is sometimes suggested to us that we should require the wholesale dismissal of Chinese officials, and a general reorganisation of the internal government of the Empire My Lords, the regeneration of an empire numbering, I believe, over 300,000,000 of people, and covering about one-twelfth of the land surface of the globe, is not a task to be undertaken light-heartedly. At any rate, I should be very sorry to contemplate the idea of insisting upon such a reform and retaining British troops in China until such time as it has been carried out. At the same time, I should be sorry to have it understood that we despair of seeing reforms in China. I feel, personally, very confident that China is capable of better things. We sometimes hear the Chinaman spoken of as if he was either a Boxer and a barbarian, or the Chinaman with whom we are familiar on the stage or in the works of American humorists. Those who know Chinamen really, and have lived in China, will tell you that the Chinaman as a soldier, if he is properly led, is one of the most fearless soldiers in the world. They will tell you that as a merchant he keeps faith scrupulously, that as a workman he is laborious and frugal beyond anything to which our ideas can attain. And I think it is a remarkable feature in the present condition of China that throughout all these recent incidents, in spite of the disappearance of the central Government, the provincial Governments have maintained the even tenor of their way, and have apparently succeeded in administering their districts with success. That has been due in great measure to some of those more enlightened Chinamen like the two Yang-tsze Viceroys, whose steady influence has had such a salutary effect during the last few months, with whom we have been in not infrequent communication, and whom we desire to support and encourage to the best of our ability.

The noble Earl has asked me several questions with regard to international agreements in existence, or supposed to be in existence, between China and other Powers. I should like to say one word with regard to the manner in which agreements of this kind are to be construed and interpreted. I think we are rather too apt to talk about them as if they were Acts of Parliament or legal instruments drawn up in the Temple or Lincoln's Inn. These agreements have not got the sanction of a Court of law behind them. They depend, not upon material guarantees, but upon the good faith of the parties who have contracted under them, and it does not shock me to find that in documents of this kind there should not be the same precision of lan guage as that which you would expect to find in a statute or in a legal document.

There is, in the first place, the agreement entered into between this country and Russia in the year 1899. I mention that because it touches very closely the question of the Northern railways, of which the noble Earl spoke. My Lords, in that Anglo-Russian Agreement it was laid down that Great Britain would not seek on her own account, or on behalf of British subjects or others, any railway concessions to the north of the Great Wall of China, and was not to obstruct directly or indirectly applications for railway concessions in that region supported by the Russian Government. And there was a corresponding engagement that Russia should not interfere with British railway concessions in the basin of the Yang-tsze. That was a perfectly equal engagement as between the two Powers, but a somewhat important exception was made in favour of the Northern Chinese Railway, to which the noble Earl referred. Part of that railway lies beyond the Great Wall, and would consequently naturally fall within the Russian sphere; but it was expressly provided by a supplemental Note of the same date that the line north of the Great Wall, that is the line from Shan-hai-Kwan to Neu-chwang, was to remain a Chinese line under the control of the Chinese Government, and should not be mortgaged or alienated to a non-Chinese company. In December, 1898, the Tsung-li-Yamên had assured us that none of the lines then under contract were to be alienated to any foreign Power. Her Majesty's Government took note of that assurance as a binding engagement, and it was accordingly embodied in the supplemental Note which I quoted to your Lordships just now. We regard this engagement distinctly as being still in force, and we do not admit that the temporary disturbance of existing arrangements which has taken place in that part of China in any way modifies the binding nature of the agreement. The whole of the Northern line was, as the noble Earl will remember, occupied by Russian troops at the time when the disturbances were going on; but we have been distinctly assured by the Russian Government that that occupation was a temporary occupation and without prejudice to the proprietary and financial interests involved. That part of the line which lies inside the Wall has been actually surrendered to Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, who has placed it in the hands of the British military authorities. The extra-mural portion still remains in Russian hands; but we have been assured that the occupation is to be regarded as a temporary measure justified by military exigencies. I hope I have convinced the noble Earl that we have not in any way derogated from our rights in the railways in question, and that the interests of British shareholders to which he especially referred have not been ignored.

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

Then the noble Earl asks me a question with regard to another agreement—that of October, 1900, commonly known as the Anglo-German Agreement. He asks me whether that agreement applies to Manchuria. I must ask your Lordships to consider, before I answer that question, the exact wording of the Anglo-German Agreement. The first clause of that agreement recites that—

> "it is a matter of joint and permanent international interest that the ports on the rivers and littoral of China should remain free and open to trade and to every other legitimate form of economic activity for the nationals of all countries without distinction, and the two Governments agree on their part to uphold the same for all Chinese territory so far as they can exercise influence."

Your Lordships will notice that in that clause there are two most important limitations. It applies, in the first place, only to the ports on the rivers and littoral of China, and to those ports only in so far as the contracting Powers have influence within them. I call your Lordships' particular attention to the expression "influence," because it is clear that "influence" is a somewhat elastic expression, and that influence can hardly be regarded as a constant factor in the consideration of such an agreement. I have made inquiries with regard to what took place when this agreement was under negotiation, and I am told that the German Government did give us to understand that in their view Manchuria was not a place within which they considered that they had influence. I must say, however, that I do not think that that point is one which deserves too much attention, because the Anglo-German Agreement certainly did not in any way diminish the rights of the Powers to use any treaty port the use of which had previously been granted to them by the

Treaty of Tientsin. The only two treaty ports which I am aware of in Manchuria are the important ports of Neu-chwang and Ta-lien-wan; and, in regard to Ta-lien-wan, we have been distinctly assured by Russia that she intends to keep that port open, while with regard to Neu-chwang, in the same way, there is no question of its being treated otherwise than an open port. The assurances of the Russian Government on that point are perfectly explicit.

When you come to the second clause of the Anglo-German Agreement the language used is different, and there are not the same reservations. In that clause it is said that the two Governments agree not to "make use of the present complications to obtain for themselves any territorial advantages in Chinese dominions," and that they will "direct their policy towards maintaining unimpaired the territorial condition of the Chinese Empire." In our view, that clause applies to the whole of the Chinese Empire, and therefore to Manchuria, which forms a part of the Chinese Empire. I have seen it stated in the newspaper reports that a speech delivered by Count von Bülow in Germany suggests the idea that the German Government possibly interprets the second clause of the agreement in a different sense from that in which we interpret it. But here, again, I ask your Lordships to consider whether the point is really a very material one, because the whole of the Powers, including Germany, have repeatedly declared that their policy is that the integrity of the Chinese Empire shall be maintained. We know that the German Government has warned the Chinese Government against entering into separate treaties with other Powers affecting her possessions. It surely does not very much matter to us whether Germany has arrived at that conclusion by a consideration of the Anglo-German Agreement or whether she has been led to it by considerations of general policy.

The noble Earl has also referred to another agreement which is commonly spoken of as the Manchurian Agreement, with regard to which we hear so many conflicting rumours from day to day. The noble Earl asks me whether such a convention between Russia and China has been entered into. I am afraid it is impossible for me to answer that question. We know that there have been negotiations. We have seen a great many different versions of this alleged agreement, some of them apparently having the appearance of authenticity. But we cannot take upon ourselves to say that any of these versions represent correctly, either the offer made by China, or the demand made by Russia; and therefore I am quite unable to pass any final opinion upon the matter. With regard to this question of Manchuria, I should like to say that we are very far from taking an exaggerated view of our interests in that part of the Chinese Empire. We have already entered into an agreement with Russia under which we recognise that, so far as railway enterprise is concerned, that part of China is within the Russian sphere, taking into consideration what is called the "gravitation" of certain parts of the Chinese Empire. We also know that in Manchuria there have been collisions between Russian and Chinese troops; that Russia has been obliged to occupy parts of that province in force; and it seems to us perfectly natural that Russia should insist, before withdrawing her troops, upon making conditions with regard to the terms upon which those troops should be withdrawn. Therefore, we should certainly not criticise in a carping or pedantic spirit the arrangement made about Manchuria between Russia and China, if it were clear that the arrangement was what it purported to be—that is a temporary arrangement of the kind usually described as a *modus vivendi.*

On the other hand, I am bound to admit that if some of the versions which have been published and which have come into our hands represent even approximately the provisions of the agreement, it would appear to contain covenants which are not limited to Manchuria, which are not of a temporary or provisional character, and some of which are apparently derogatory to our treaty rights in the Chinese Empire. It is suggested that these versions of the alleged agreement may be *ballons d'essai* launched by ambitious local officials, or, again, that they may be the inventions of evilly-disposed persons who desire to sow disunion between the Powers. I am perfectly content to assume that there may be something in either of these theories. But, my Lords, if that is so I have only to add that nothing would give us greater pleasure than to take part in exposing so unworthy an artifice, and that if Russia would only, by communicating to us what the real text of this agreement is, enable us to put an end to these misconceptions, we should be delighted to co-operate with her for that purpose. What has militated against any such solution as this has been the mystery in which those negotiations have been shrouded.

Your Lordships are, of course, aware of the action which His Majesty's Government took with regard to this matter. We instructed our Ambassador at St. Petersburg to mention to Count Lamsdorff the difficulty in which we were placed by these apparently well-authenticated rumours. I do not think anything could be more correct or more satisfactory than the language with which Count Lamsdorff met the approaches of our Ambassador. He told us that it was the object of the Russian Government—

> "to arrange with the local civil authorities the terms of a *modus vivendi* between them for the duration of the simultaneous presence of Russian and Chinese authorities in Southern Manchuria, the object being to prevent the recurrence of disturbances in the vicinity of the Russian frontier and to protect the railway from the Russian frontier to Port Arthur."

And he added that his Government had—

> "no intention of seeking this guarantee in any acquisition of territory or of an actual or virtual protectorate over Manchuria."

All I can say is that, if the agreement really falls within the language used by Count Lamsdorff to Sir Charles Scott, we should certainly not object to it, and that we should freely admit that we could have no right to raise any objection to it. Nobody would be more relieved than His Majesty's Government if we could be satisfied that there was no occasion for apprehension on this point. But until these uncertainties have been removed we feel we cannot do otherwise than adhere to the view which we have expressed and which we have intimated to the Chinese Government—namely, that it is not desirable that China, at a time when she is negotiating with the whole of the Powers at Peking, should simultaneously enter into private and separate arrangements, involving her territorial and her financial condition, with any individual Power. That is the language we have used to the Chinese Government, and I am glad to say it is almost precisely the language that has been used by the German Government. Your Lordships will remember Count von Bülow's speech in the Reichstag, in which he said—

> "China is in the position of a debtor to the Powers, who owes them a very large sum, and she is a debtor who is arranging with her creditors, but has not yet got a settlement. The creditors have an interest in seeing that the debtor does not give away too much *in fraudem creditorum.*"

That is exactly our position. Count von Bülow proceeded to use these words—

> "The German Government adhered to the principle of having all matters affecting China decided by the concert of the Powers, and that not in the way of negotiation between Cabinet and Cabinet, but by the conference of their representatives in Peking."

He went on to say—

> "The Government of His Majesty the German Emperor has, therefore, no intention of initiating any other form of treatment in the case of the question raised by the Chinese Minister, or of putting itself in the place of the concert of the Powers. The German Government accordingly recommends the Chinese Government to submit all its suggestions to the diplomatic conference at Peking."

That seems to us perfectly sound advice, and our advice to the Chinese Government has been couched in the same terms.

I think I have now dealt with all the points raised by the question. I have occupied the time of your Lordships so long that I will not attempt to travel into Korea, or into other matters not covered by the question of the noble Earl.

*EARL SPENCER: There is one other point in the question—with reference to Mongolia.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl's question, I take it, is whether Mongolia, under the terms of the Anglo-Russian Agreement, falls within the Russian railway sphere.

*EARL SPENCER: Whether there has been any arrangement between Russia and China with regard to railways in Mongolia.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: In some of the versions of the alleged agreement it was stated that the agreement had reference not only to Manchuria, but to Mongolia and Eastern Turkestan. We have since heard that that clause has been expunged from the text of the agreement. I cannot say whether the rumour is correct, but I hope it may be so. I have only to say, in conclusion, that we fully recognise the very great difficulties which confront us in China. We shall spare no pains to surmount them. We shall strive to uphold the interests of this country. We shall certainly be tenacious in matters of principle; but in matters of detail we recognise that we must not expect always to have our own way. We shall, at any rate, use our best endeavours to bring these negotiations to a close, and to terminate a situation which is certainly inconvenient, if not fraught with danger, to those who are concerned in the present negotiations.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I am sure your Lordships have listened with great interest to the full statement which the noble Marquess has given in answer to the question put to him by my noble friend behind me. My noble friend placed the question on the Paper, not for the purpose of embarrassing the Government, but for the *bonâ fide* purpose of eliciting information, and we have every reason to thank the noble Marquess for his reply. I will not go in detail into the delicate points which the noble Marquess has referred to, but I was extremely gratified to hear the language he used with regard to our relations with Russia. I am glad that the noble Marquess has not encouraged those who view Russia as a necessary bogey to us in Asia. I am glad that he has encouraged the idea that after all there is plenty of room for both Russia and us in Asia, and that we can arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the relations between us by friendly negotiations and representations, without the necessity for any more violent methods. I think that in that respect we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the manner in which the little storm at Tientsin has passed away. I am glad, too, that we are in the position of saying ditto to Count von Bülow with regard to his representations to China as to the undesirability at this moment of making territorial concessions to any of the Powers interested in China.

It appears to me that, until this question of indemnity has been cleared up, we have a right to demand that China shall hold her territory inviolate, so that we, as creditors, may have the greatest possible security for whatever claims we may have to make. I think, too, it was very satisfactory to hear the views of the Government with regard to their reluctance to enter upon inland expeditions in China. We have had our experience of expeditions into wild, roadless countries during the last eighteen months, but the difficulties of expeditions in South Africa would be infinitely magnified if we proposed to make expeditions into the heart of China. For European Powers to enter upon expeditions into that country would seem to me most hazardous and undesirable. I think we have reason to be pleased that there is absolute unanimity among the Powers upon the four points mentioned by the noble Marquess. The policy of Europe in China has been well defined from an American source. It is laid down in that definition that it should be—

> "to seek a solution which may bring permanent safety and peace to China, to preserve Chinese territorial and administrative entity, to protect all rights guaranteed to friendly Powers by treaty and international law, and to safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade in all parts of the Empire."

I think that aptly sums up a sound European policy towards the Empire of China. The only question is, how can that policy be best carried into effect? When we consider that question, we must also take into consideration the circumstances in which our present difficulties have arisen. We must consider whether the Powers have in any way contributed, either by acts of commission or omission, to the state of affairs which has prevailed in China for the last eighteen months, and in my opinion they cannot be freed from all blame in the matter. It seems to me that we were very slow indeed to act. In 1898 and 1899—particularly in 1899—we had sufficient proof of the unrest that existed in China. We had reports of the piratical outrages on the West River, the attacks on the missions in Central Se-chuen, the murders of native Christians in that province, the anti-foreign rioting at Kien-ning, the anti-foreign placards posted at Foo-Chow, and the murder of Mr. Brooks in Shantung. There was the demand put forward by the Powers for the suppression of the Boxers, which was flatly refused by the Chinese; and after that flat refusal a proposal was put forward by the Powers that a naval demonstration should take place, but that demonstration was vetoed by the noble Marquess the late Foreign Minister as being premature and unnecessary.

Then, again, we have to consider how far the action of the Powers themselves may have had influence in stirring up the Chinese to take violent action. I do not think it could have been very pleasant to Chinamen, whether in high or low position, to see the German occupation of Kow-Chow, the Russian occupation of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan, our own occupation of Wei-hai-wei, the abandonment of the Province of Shantung to the Germans, the demands of the French in Southern China, and our own occupation of territory in the neighbourhood of Hong Kong. All these things, I think, must have done a great deal to exacerbate Chinese feeling towards the European Powers, and must have made the rulers in China only too anxious to grasp at any weapon that came near their hand by which the intruding foreigner might have his career checked. Some excuse may, therefore, be found for the original sympathy held out by the Chinese Government to the Boxers and the insurrectionary forces that accompanied them. We should take these facts into consideration when we ask for the punishment of ringleaders and the payment of an indemnity.

I think, also, that some set-off to the crimes of the Chinese may be found in the conduct of some of the European troops during the recent operations. I do not know whether the noble Marquess can give any information about the conduct of our own troops. I think that the sufferings that have been inflicted on the Chinese have to some extent wiped out some of the crimes which were committed by Chinamen themselves. I was glad to hear the noble Marquess say that the indemnities to be exacted were not to be of too crushing a character, and that they were to be collectively claimed by the Powers. The noble Marquess said there was no intention on the part of this country, or of the Powers, to insist on any internal reforms in China.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I spoke entirely for myself. I have no right to commit the other Powers.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The noble Marquess said there was no intention on the part of this country to insist on any internal reforms in China. It seems to me, however, that if there is to be reform of *likin* it involves considerable reform of the administration of China itself. At present *likin* is exacted at every barrier on the waterways and highways of China, and it is too often exacted corruptly for the benefit of the local Mandarins, who are practically paid by the sums which they can thus improperly exact. It seems to me that there can be no reform of *likin* until you make some reform of the Mandarin administration in China. It will, I think, be necessary to see that the Mandarins no longer carry on their administration in a corrupt manner, and that they are sufficiently paid to enable them to maintain their position without having to resort to illegal practices. These are the principal points on which I rose to make a few observations. I would suggest that probably no better way of improving the trade relations between Europe and China can be discovered than by opening up the waterways of China. A great deal was thought to have been done in that direction in 1898, but owing to the manner in which the arrangements then made have been carried into operation in China, the advantages that would have been gained by the Agreement of 1898 have been greatly diminished. We were very glad to hear the statement the noble Marquess made, and I hope that the result of the policy which the Government is now entering upon will be to secure in China an early peace and the early withdrawal of our troops.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords I do not rise for the purpose of entering into the question of reforms in China, but as the Indian troops in China are under the instructions of my noble friend the Secretary of State for India, I would ask your Lordships' attention for a few moments while I deal with the Tientsin incident and the conduct of the troops, both of which subjects have been referred to. A convention was entered into by the German and Russian military authorities on 4th January, 1901, in abrogation of the previous convention of 13th October, 1900. This new convention contains in its first article the declaration that—

"The agreement has in view as sole object to regulate the military use of the line in the interests of all the allied Powers, and in no way affects any proprietary claim."

On 22nd February Count von Waldersee handed over the line to the British military authorities. There has been some misunderstanding on that point. The line was not handed over to Mr. Kinder, the official of the railway company, but to the British military authorities, who employed Mr. Kinder to work the line under their instructions. When the line was handed over Major Bauer, the German railway representative, declared that the Russo-German transfer document, dated 18th January, showed that the Russians had no plan and were ignorant of the limits of the railway boundary. When Major Bauer took over the line the Russians had made no claim to the plot of land at Tientsin which has recently been in question, and had not put up certain flags and boundary marks which have since been the subject of discussion.

It was on 5th March that the Russian claim to land at Tientsin was heard of for the first time. A Russian named M. Batouieff claimed to have purchased from the Chinese the land required for the railway siding. It appears that eighteen acres of this land have been for many years in the possession of the railway, while another valuable piece of land four and a half acres in extent, with a frontage on the Peiho river, was bought by the railway a few years ago. The English officer in command at Tientsin, General Lorn Campbell, at once sent an officer to explain these facts to M. Batouieff, and the interview was apparently a friendly one, as M. Batouieff thanked him and explained that he had not been aware of the existence of any prior claim to the land. The title deeds, unfortunately, appear to have been mislaid during the Russian occupation of the railway system prior to the new convention. On 6th March Colonels Macdonald and Swan called upon General Wogack and discussed the matter with him. He declared that the question of the land claimed by M. Batouieff was one for the Russian Consul's consideration. Colonel Macdonald then pointed out the necessity of constructing, in the interests of the allied forces, an extra siding on the railway. General Wogack admitted the utility of such a siding, but adhered to his opinion that the question of its construction was not one for his decision. Colonels Macdonald and Swan, in order to make sure of the validity of the railway's title to the land claimed by M. Batouieff, in so far as that was possible in the unfortunate absence of the title deeds, called upon Mr. Campbell, His Majesty's Consul-General at Tientsin, and they were assured by him that the title was indisputable, as the land had been bought by the Chinese Government for the railway, and was therefore part of the mortgaged property. At Colonel Macdonald's request Mr. Campbell informed the Russian Consul-General that the land was railway property, and was required for the military service of the railway; and this notification was made in compliance with a previous Russian proclamation to the effect that claims to ownership of land at Tientsin should be put in by 7th March.

Apparently no further negotiation on this question took place, and the matter in dispute was considered settled, as, all the facts having been reported to General Gaselee and orders having been received from him that the Madras sappers and pioneers were to commence work on the siding, no protest was raised by M. Batouieff, the Russian Consul, or the Russian General when the work was commenced on 7th March. Indeed, it is obvious that General Gaselee did not anticipate any friction, as on 11th March he left Peking on a tour of inspection of the British and Indian troops in China. At daybreak on 15th March a Russian guard appeared at the head of the siding, with the result that a continuance of the work was prevented. General Barrow, who had remained at Peking, reported on 16th March the situation at Tientsin to Colonel Schwartzhoff, the German Chief of the Staff. He accepted a suggestion made by General Barrow that Count von Waldersee should request both parties to withdraw from the disputed ground. On the evening of 20th March, Count von Waldersee and General Wogack both arrived in Peking. Next day—the 21st—General Barrow met them in consultation, and an amicable settlement was reached. It was agreed that the work should not be continued until the question of ownership was settled, or a special arrangement made between the respective Governments. On 22nd March, at 5 a.m., the Russian and British sentries were simultaneously withdrawn. Before parting from this incident, I shall only be praising those to whom praise is due if I commend, in the warmest manner, the tact and self-control displayed by the British officers on the spot.

With regard to the conduct and bearing of our troops in China, Sir Alfred Gaselee speaks in the highest terms of their discipline, and their humanity has been unquestionable. Hardly any outrage has been committed, and in proof of this he has pointed to the very few instances of courts-martial or of summary awards of punishment. He has referred to the friendly attitude of the native population to his men, who appear to have received a welcome wherever their duties have taken them. Many small detachments of troops have been sent to isolated districts, and the men have all been on friendly terms with the natives. Also, Sir Alfred Gaselee states that our patrols were never fired at. I think, my Lords, these facts speak for themselves, and there is no doubt that Sir Alfred Gaselee is proud of the conduct of all troops under his command. Though no orders, so far as I am aware, have been issued by the Field-Marshal Commander-in-Chief, I understand that he has on more than one occasion expressed the highest admiration of their conduct and discipline.

As regards looting, about which there appears to have been some misapprehension, in the first instance it was absolutely prohibited by Sir Alfred Gaselee, but the temptation to the men was great, inasmuch as that which troops under his command were not allowed to loot was left to be looted by anyone choosing to take advantage of the opportunity. General Gaselee, in these circumstances, issued orders that looting under proper control might be permitted from abandoned and derelict houses within the areas allotted to British occupation; that is to say, the areas known in Peking and Tientsin as the British quarter; and he ordered that whatever was so collected should be sold by auction and the proceeds placed in a prize fund for the benefit of all his troops. I may add that articles of value belonging to the State have been kept in safe custody, with a view to restoration when a stable Chinese Government is re-established. Your Lordships may be interested to learn that the health of the troops has been remarkably good. The total deaths from all causes in this expedition up to the present time have been—British troops, 42; native troops, 163; followers, 108; total, 313; and the percentage of sick in hospital from all causes on 1st January, the date of the last Report received, was only 3·5. These figures sufficiently indicate the good health of the forces and the efficiency of the hospital arrangements.

LORD STANMORE: May I ask the noble Earl what is the meaning of "looting under proper control"? It is a phrase I have never heard before.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I thought I explained it. Looting, in the ordinary sense of the word, was absolutely prohibited; but where houses had been abandoned and were empty, armed parties were allowed to go to those houses and remove property, which was afterwards put up for auction and the money divided among the troops.

THE EARL OF DUNMORE: Has the noble Earl any evidence that looting had taken place before then?

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: General Gaselee issued this order because he saw that it was unfair not to allow our men to loot when that which they did not take was left to be looted by others.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered to-morrow, in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Committee, to consist of five Members, to join with a Committee of this House to consider the various charitable agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds supplied by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war; and to request this House to appoint an equal number of Lords to be joined with the Members of their House; the said Message to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMEMT.

Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Committee, to consist of five Members, to join with a Committee of this House to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords, and to request this House to appoint an equal number of Lords to be joined with the Members of their House; the said Message to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven of the clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 28th March, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills. That in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—

Barry Railway.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—

Rodgers' Patent [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL (BY ORDER).

Read a second time, and committed.

BARRY RAILWAY.

Petition for Bill; referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HAM) PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Bill to confirm a scheme relating to Ham Common, in the parish of Ham, in the county of Surrey, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HAM) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

"To confirm a Scheme relating to Ham Common, in the parish of Ham, in the county of Surrey," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 126.]

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (ORPINGTON) PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Bill to confirm a Scheme relating to Broom Hill Common and other Commons in the parish of Orpington, in the county of Kent, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (ORPINGTON) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

"To confirm a Scheme relating to Broom Hill Common and other Commons in the parish of Orpington, in the county of Kent," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 127.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1).

Bill to confirm certain provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Carlisle, Erith, Hornsey, Oxford, and Whitley and Monkseaton, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Carlisle, Erith, Hornsey, Oxford, and Whitley and Monkseaton," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 128.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parish of Saint Giles, Camberwell, the Southampton Incorporation, and the Stepney Union, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parish of Saint Giles, Camberwell, the Southampton Incorporation, and the Stepney Union," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 129.]

THAMES PIERS AND RIVER SERVICE BILL.

Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A.).

Mr. Alexander Hargreaves Brown reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd April, at Twelve of the clock; Report to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

PAISLEY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

THAMES AND SEVERN PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

NEATH HARBOUR BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

BURY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Knutsford; and Southern Division of Wilts; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Kidsgrove; Buttlane; Birchinwood; Pack Moor; Morley Main; Swinton; Holbrook; Wharncliffe (No. 3); Audley; Pittshill; Madely and Leycett; Brown Edge; Halmer End; Bucknall; Golden Hill; Milton; Harriseahead; Whitfield; Lochgelly; Chesterton; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Clanway; Cheadle; West Hallam; and Shipley Woodside Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS).

Petition from Manchester for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Swinton; Morley Main; Holbrook; Mow Cop; Kidsgrove; Buttlane; Birchinwood; Pack Moor; Audley; West Hallam;

Wharncliffe; Silkstone; Pittshill; Madely and Leycett; Brown Edge; Halmer End; Bucknall; Golden Hill; Milton; Harriseahead; Cheadle; Whitfield; Lochgelly; Chesterton; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Knutton; Clanway; and Woodside Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY (MONMOUTHSHIRE).

Petition from Coedpoeth for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Norwich (two); Headley Hill (two); Balachulish; Cornsay Colliery (six); Levenshulme (two); Heaton Moor; South Cheriton; Dalton in Furness; Kilmaurs; Alnwick; Forfar (three); Clitheroe; Burnley; East Ardsley; Mirfield; Sheffield; Edinburgh; Denbigh; Llangollen; Pendleton; and Rossett; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Ardrossan; Stevenston; Stornoway; Fraserburgh; Montrose (three); Arbroath (two); Insch; Forfar; Ayr; Udny; Culsamond; Maxwelltown; and Rutherglen; to lie upon the Table.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MONMOUTH BOROUGHS ELECTION PETITION (THOMAS EMBREY AND ANOTHER v. FREDERICK RUTHERFORD HARRIS).

A Petition of Hollams, Sons, Coward, and Hawksley, solicitors, for leave to the proper officer of the House to attend a trial and produce documents and give evidence in the High Court of Justice.

Leave to the proper officer to attend accordingly.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).

Paper [presented 27th March] to be printed [No. 106.]

ARMY (CLOTHING FACTORY).

Annual Account presented of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1899-1900, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 107.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (ARMY VOTES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 27th March, 1901, under the Appropriation Act, 1899, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Army Votes for the year 1899-1900 to meet excesses on certain other Army Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 108.]

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.

Copies presented, of Minutes sanctioning the Subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Act for the following County Borough and County:—

County Borough of South Shields (Fourth Minute), dated 6th March, 1901; County of Glamorgan (Tenth Minute), dated 8th March, 1901

[by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2566 and 2567 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (Administrative County of Durham).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 14th February, 1900; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. [No. 109.]

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Return ordered, "of the Additional and Supplementary Estimates voted in each of the years since 1890, distinguishing those due to active military operations."—(*Sir Edgar Vincent.*)

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "showing, in respect to the Registration of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors for each County and Borough during the year 1900, the salaries and travelling expenses of Revising Barristers; the inclusive salaries of the Assistants to Clerks of the Peace at Revision Sessions; the sums certified by the Treasury to be the Additional Cost recoverable from local bodies under Section 1 (4) of the Registration (Ireland) Act, 1898; the expenses of printing voters' lists, and all other expenses connected therewith."—(*Mr. M'Fadden.*)

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (EXPENSES).

Address for "Return of Charges made to Candidates at the General Election of 1900 in Great Britain and Ireland by Returning Officers, specifying the total expenses of each Candidate (both exclusive and inclusive of Returning Officers' Charges) delivered to the Returning Officer pursuant to the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883, and the number of Votes polled for each Candidate (in continuation of and in the same form as Parliamentary Paper, No. 145, of Session 1896). The totals of each column to be shown separately for England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, with a Summary showing the gross totals."—(*Mr. Armine Wodehouse.*)

BREWERS' LICENCES.

Return ordered, "of Accounts of the number of persons in each of the several Collections of the United Kingdom licensed as Brewers for sale, *i.e.*, Common Brewers, Victuallers, Retailers of beer to be drunk on the premises, Retailers of beer not to be drunk on the premises, and Brewers of beer not for sale, particularising each class in each Collection; and stating also the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, &c., and sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, &c., used by Brewers of beer for sale, and of malt and sugar used by Brewers not for sale, from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900.

"Of the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged from the 1st day of October, 1899 to the 30th day of September, 1900, distinguishing Brewers for sale from other Brewers.

"Of the number of Brewers for sale paying for Licences, from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900, separating them into classes, according to the number of barrels of beer brewed, namely, under 1,000 barrels, at 1·055 degrees gravity; 1,000 and under 10,000; 10,000 and under 20,000; 20,000 and under 30,000; 30,000 and under 50,000; 50,000 and under 100,000; 100,000 and under 150,000; 150,000 and under 200,000; 200,000 and under 250,000; 250,000 and under 300,000; 300,000 and under 350,000; 350,000 and under 400,000; 400,000 and under 450,000; 450,000 and under 500,000; 500,000 and under 600,000; 600,000 and under 700,000; 700,000 and under 800,000; 800,000 and under 900,000; 900,000 and under 1,000,000; 1,000,000 and under 1,500,000; 1,500,000 and under 2,000,000; 2,000,000 barrels and over; showing separately, in each class, the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., and sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., used; and stating also the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged in each class.

"And of the number of barrels of beer exported from the United Kingdom, and the declared value thereof, and where exported to, from the 1st day of October, 1899, to the 30th day of September, 1900, distinguishing England, Scotland, and Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 69, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—AFRIKANDER DELEGATES' PETITION TO BE HEARD AT THE BAR.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the Government will propose to the House that Mr. Merriman and Mr. Sauer be heard upon the policy of the settlement in South Africa, pursuant to their petition.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Government do not think that the course which the hon. and learned Member suggests would be a proper one.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman consult the House on the question?

[No reply was given.]

LAWS OF WARFARE—HAGUE CONFERENCE.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government now accept the laws and usages of war settled at the Hague Conference as forming the usages which distinguish civilised from barbarous warfare.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course this Government accepts the principle to which it gave its assent at the Hague Conference.

MR. FLYNN: But not the practice.

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to redeem their pledge of an inquiry into the causes of our failures during the South African War.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have more than once stated to the House that we do not propose that this Commission should begin its work until the war has finished, or very nearly reached its finish.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA—SIR ALFRED MILNER.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of Commandant Botha's objection to negotiate with Sir Alfred Milner, he will consider the expediency whenever negotiations may be renewed of requesting the Premiers of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to act with Lord Kitchener as an advising council.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): No, Sir; His Majesty's Government have no intention of superseding Sir Alfred Milner as suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can give any information as to the meaning of General Botha's statement, in his letter of 16th March, to the effect that Lord Kitchener would certainly not be surprised that he was unable to accept the terms offered, because they differed from those which had been discussed in the interview of 28th February, and if he can state in what respect they differed, and what were the points on which the negotiations consequently broke down.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information beyond what is contained in the published Papers.

EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA—COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the negotiations between the German Foreign Office and the British Government as to the claims made for indemnity by Germans expelled from the Transvaal at the outbreak of the war have been concluded; and, if so, whether he is in a position to state what the financial arrangement arrived at is.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): A Commission will shortly be appointed for the purpose of investigating the claims to compensation which have been made by the subjects of various friendly Powers in consequence of their expulsion from South Africa by the British military authorities.

CAMPS OF DETENTION.

MR. C. P. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state approximately the number of women and children at present confined in each of the detention camps in South Africa, and whether there is any reason why such of them as desire to return to their homes or to friends in Cape Colony who are willing to receive them should not be permitted to do so; whether he can state the number of children who have been born in these camps since they were established, and the number who have died; and whether he has received, or will procure, full information as to the sanitary conditions of the camps, and as to the supply of food and clothing.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Lord Kitchener has been requested to forward full information on these matters.

DESPATCH OF REINFORCEMENTS.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many of the reinforcement of 30,000 men last asked for by the War Office have been secured, and what number have been actually despatched to South Africa; whether any application has been received by the Government from Lord Kitchener for reinforcements over and above the 30,000 men, and to what extent; and have the Government in contemplation any further reinforcements over and above the 30,000 men.

*MR. BRODRICK: The number of 30,000 mounted troops which the Government undertook on 7th February last to send to South Africa has been exceeded. Up to date 28,560 men have been despatched, and 6,000 more are ready to embark as transports are provided. Of these, Regular Cavalry drafts are, 3,860; Mounted Infantry, 4,400; Imperial Yeomanry, 16,600; South African Constabulary, 4,700; Colonials, 5,000 — 34,560. Two battalions of Militia and thirty-eight Volunteer companies and some other drafts have been sent during the same period to relieve similar units at the front. Lord Kitchener has asked for drafts for certain battalions which are being prepared. No other application has been made to me by Lord Kitchener, and after the South African Constabulary is completed it is not at present proposed to raise any further force.

DEFENCES OF CAPE TOWN.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if four new forts are to be erected for the better defence of Cape Town; whether the Imperial Government will bear the cost; and, if so, what is the estimated amount.

*MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. Nothing is known of the four new forts at Cape Town alluded to.

PRESENT STRENGTH OF BOER FORCES.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state approximately the number of Boer prisoners of war, how many Boers capable of bearing arms are in the British laagers, and the number of fighting Boers still in arms against us in South Africa.

*MR. BRODRICK: The number of Boer prisoners of war is approximately 16,000. I do not know how many Boers capable of bearing arms are in the British laagers, or how many Boers are still in arms.

MR. LAMBERT: Can you not give us the total approximately?

*MR. BRODRICK: I have no recent data.

WARM CLOTHING FOR THE TROOPS.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the military authorities are providing sufficient warm over and under clothing for all the troops, Regular, Militia, Volunteer, Yeomanry, Colonial, in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies during the coming winter, or if they are in any way dependent upon private supplies; and in respect of the latter, if there is a Government officer at Cape Town and Durban whose duty it is to be posted as far as possible as to the whereabouts of the several corps and companies in the field, or detached posts, or in garrison, and with power to forward parcels to them by any available means.

*MR. BRODRICK: The military authorities are providing warm underclothing, and the troops will receive the authorised issues; but special consignments of such things and other luxuries are much appreciated. An Army Service Corps officer at Cape Town is in charge of the distribution of parcels, and either has the latest information of the locality of the troops at his disposal, or can readily obtain it. The telegraphic address of the information bureau is, "Casualty, Cape Town."

GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to make any provision for the widows and orphans not on the establishment of the various classes of combatants who have fought and fallen, or who may fall, in the British ranks in South Africa.

*MR. BRODRICK: His Majesty's Government can only deal with the claims of widows and orphans of men on the strength. Widows and families not on the strength will be assisted from the funds at the disposal of the Patriotic Fund Commissioners.

PROVISION FOR RESERVISTS' FAMILIES — PRIVATE HASLER, 2ND SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the widow, married on the strength of the regiment, and two young children of Private Harry Hasler, Reservist, of the 2nd Somerset Light Infantry, who died of enteric fever at Kimberley on 9th November last, have been unable, in spite of repeated efforts, to obtain any pension or allowance from the War Office, and if it had not been for private assistance would have been compelled to enter the workhouse; and, seeing that unless some provision be made this soldier's widow and children will shortly have to apply for parish relief, will he instruct the proper authorities to make an immediate allowance, taking into consideration also the fact that nearly five months have passed without any grant being made.

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid that my hon. friend has been misinformed. As soon as Private Hasler's death was reported from South Africa, the case was notified to the Patriotic Fund and the *Daily Telegraph* Fund. The former made an initial grant of £7, and a weekly allowance of eight shillings, and the latter fund made an initial grant of £26, and an annuity of £10. The widow will come under the new Government pension scheme, though some of the assistance referred to will possibly then cease. I must point out to my hon. friend that, as I have already stated, the new scheme will only come into effect on the 1st July, and that therefore the War Office was not in a position to make any grant from Government funds.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): And what is going to happen until the 1st July? Are these people to be left destitute?

MR. BRODRICK was understood to reply that no doubt assistance would be forthcoming from private funds.

GARRISON REGIMENTS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing the probable difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of men for the garrison regiments, he will consider the advisability of altering the conditions contained in Section 1 (*a*) of the Royal Warrant of 23rd February, 1901, so as to enable men eligible in all respects and under 40 years of age to serve, although more than 20 years have elapsed from the date of first attestation.

MR. BRODRICK: The matter has been carefully considered, and it is not intended to make the alteration suggested. The Garrison regiments are not dependent on the enlistment from the Royal Reserve Regiments for their completion.

IMPERIAL FORCES IN AUSTRALIA—DISTURBANCES.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has made inquiries into the disturbances among the Imperial representative forces at Brisbane and Melbourne, and what answer he has received.

MR. BRODRICK: A Report has been called for, but has not yet been received.

OFFICERS' BARRACK FURNITURE.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, on an officer joining the Army and receiving quarters in barracks, the only furniture supplied by the Government is one small table, two wooden chairs, and a coal scuttle; whether he is aware that the cost of buying other furniture is a burden upon many young officers; and whether, seeing that on an officer changing his quarters this furniture has to be moved at considerable cost or stored at the officer's expense, he can arrange that in future all necessary furniture will be supplied by the Government to officers' rooms in barracks.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The articles of furniture supplied to an officer's quarters are: Two chairs, one table, one poker, one shovel, one pair of tongs, one scuttle. The question of furnishing officers' quarters in future is under consideration.

MEDITERRANEAN FLEET AND CHANNEL SQUADRON CRUISERS.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the number of cruisers at present attached to the Mediterranean Fleet and the Channel Squadron respectively, and what is the normal number supposed to be required in each case.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The number of cruisers belonging to the Mediterranean Fleet is ten, of which one second and one third class are temporarily employed on the Cape Station. The third class cruiser is about to be replaced by another ship. Six cruisers are attached to the Channel Squadron. There is no fixed establishment of cruisers for the two fleets in question.

COST OF NEW ROYAL YACHT.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what has been up to now the total cost of the new "Victoria and Albert" yacht, and what amount is estimated as still necessary to complete her.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The total net cost of the Royal Yacht, up to the present date is £433,637; the estimated amount required to complete the vessel is £32,146; to those amounts must be added a sum of £46,251, the estimated proportion of incidental charges upon the entire work. Making a total of £512,034.

MR. WOLFF (Belfast, E.): What was the amount of the original estimate?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have not the figures with me.

MR. FLYNN: What has caused the great increase?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There are many causes. I cannot detail them in answer to a question.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Has any estimate been formed of the cost of breaking her up?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir.

TRAINING SHIP CRUISES IN THE NORTH.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, if arrangements will be made for H.M.S. "Northampton" to visit Invergordon during her summer cruise in the North.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is not proposed to send H.M.S. "Northampton" to Invergordon during her summer cruise. H.M.S. "Cleopatra" visited Invergordon last year, but I am unable to state whether she will repeat her visit during the coming year, as the programme of cruises for the training ships has not yet been finally settled.

CAPE COAST COLONY AND ASHANTI—LABOUR LAWS.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a Return of all ordinances, laws, and regulations in force in the Cape Coast Colony and in the Ashanti Protectorate in respect to the labour of natives, including the forced labour ordinance in the former, and all laws, regulations, and ordinances in the colony and the Protectorate in respect to the terms and conditions affecting the ownership and working of mines and the taxes that are levied thereon.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, we have had numerous applications for copies of some of these documents, and it will be convenient to print them in the form of a Blue-book. The compulsory labour ordinance to which the hon. Member refers expired in 1898, and has not been renewed.

WEST INDIAN FRUIT INDUSTRY.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can give any particulars as to the condition, packing, vendibility, and price realised of the first consignment of fruit from the West Indies by the new subsidised line of steamers.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The only information which I have received on the subject referred to by the hon. Member beyond what has appeared in the press is in a letter from the contractors for the Imperial Direct Jamaica Service, in which they state as follows—

> "The fruit by the 'Port Morant' arrived in splendid order and the system of preserving fruit, so far as we can tell, will retain the temperature we require, irrespective of what the temperature may be in Jamaica or this country."

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

SIR JOHN LENG: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Mr. Kinder, the chief engineer of the Tientsin Railway, a British subject in the employment of the Chinese railway administration, was entitled to call upon General Barrow to interfere in the recent siding dispute; whether General Barrow had any authority to send the telegram ordering him to proceed with the work by force if necessary; and whether Mr. Kinder, having provoked a misunderstanding with Russia by a display of force, will be permitted to take a similar course in the future on the supposition that he is countenanced by His Majesty's Government.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The hon. Member appears to be under a misapprehension as to the facts of the case. The railway is at present under the control and management of the British military authorities, who are working it for the common benefit of the allied forces. It was Colonel MacDonald, R.E., not Mr. Kinder, who referred for instructions to General Gaselee when the dispute arose as to the ownership of the land upon which the siding was to be built. General Barrow did not at any time order the work to be continued by force.

MURDER OF THE REV. JOSEPH STONEHOUSE.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information as to the murder of the Rev. Joseph Stonehouse, of the London Missionary Society, on Saturday last, on the Hun-ho river; whether at the time of the murder Mr. Stonehouse was distributing relief to starving villagers; whether any special reason is assigned for the murder; and whether the British authorities have taken prompt measures to discover the perpetrators of the crime.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Minister at Peking has reported that Mr. Stonehouse was shot by Chinese on the 23rd instant, and died the same evening, but we have no further particulars. Sir E. Satow is no doubt taking the necessary action in the matter.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA—ANGLO-GERMAN AGREEMENT.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that the German Chancellor has expressed the view that the Anglo-German Agreement does not affect Manchuria; and whether he will inquire whether such statement was made.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I will ask the hon. Member to allow me to deal with this question in debate later on in the evening.

MR. CONOR O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to a statement by Count von Bülow denying explicitly that the Anglo-German Agreement applies to Manchuria; and whether His Majesty's Government agrees with the views of Count von Bülow.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I would rather postpone my answer to this until I speak on the subject in the debate which I understand is to come on later in the evening.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information as to the acceptance or rejection by the Chinese Government of the Russo-Chinese Agreement regarding Manchuria which the Russian Government has been pressing upon China.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: No information has been received that an agreement between Russia and China has been either accepted or rejected.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Can the noble Lord state whether such an agreement has been or is being pressed upon the acceptance of His Majesty's Government?

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I have no doubt that my hon. friend will have an opportunity of addressing himself to that question later on.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: That is not the point. May I ask——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member's second question does not arise out of his first. It is quite a separate question.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Will you kindly read the last sentence of my question, Sir? Will the noble Lord be kind enough to promise to give us the information this evening? I will promise to address myself to the question if only he will answer.

[No answer was returned.]

KOREA—DIRECTOR-GENERALSHIP OF CUSTOMS.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): On behalf of my hon. and learned and gallant friend—— [Laughter.] All the gallantry is not on the other side of the House. [More laughter.] Mr. Speaker, am I not entitled to designate my hon. friend as honourable, learned and gallant?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must ask his question, and must not continually obstruct the business of the House in this way.

MR. FLAVIN: Well, on behalf of my hon. and learned and gallant friend the Member for East Clare, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Mr. Brown, the Director of Customs, has been dismissed by the Korean Government; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government are taking steps to secure his reinstatement.

The following question also appeared on the Paper.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Mr. McLeavy Brown has been dismissed from his position as Director General of Customs in Korea, and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government are taking steps to secure his reinstatement.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Mr. McLeavy Brown has not been dismissed. A difficulty arose with regard to Mr. McLeavy Brown's official residence, which is the property of the Korean Government, and which the latter desired that he should vacate. This led to a demand for his dismissal, but there are reasons for hoping that the matter will be satisfactorily arranged within a brief period.

UGANDA RAILWAY.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he can state how many miles of the Uganda Railway have been constructed; and whether he can say when the undertaking will be completed.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The rails have been laid on 481 miles. The line is open for traffic for 448 miles. As soon as Colonel Gracey, R.E., who has recently returned from an inspecting of the line, has reported we shall be in a better position than now to form an idea as to the date when the undertaking will be completed.

INDIAN POLITICAL AGENCIES.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what was the number of troops stationed at the close of 1898 in the political agencies of Dir, Sivat, the Khyber, the Kurran, Tochi, and Wano, and what was their estimated cost; and whether he will say whether any reduction has been made in the number of these troops during the present Viceroy's period of office; if so, to what extent; and what is the estimated aggregate annual cost of these military and political outposts under the conditions of the new province.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The number of troops stationed on the 1st December, 1898, in the districts referred to was: Malakand Agency, including Dir and Swat, 3,447; the Khyber Brigade, 3,211; the Kurrum, including Samana, 2,489; Tochi, 2,344; Wana, 1,094. The Khyber Brigade has been withdrawn, and the Khyber is now held by Afridi Militia. Half a squadron of Native Cavalry and a half battalion of Native Infantry, numbering about 500, have been transferred from the Kurrum Valley to Kohat. The cost of these several outposts cannot be given without reference to India; nor have I, as yet, received any estimate of the cost of the new arrangements which are now contemplated.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: Will the information be available before the discussion on the Indian Budget is taken?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I doubt if I shall have it by then.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

MR. WALTER PALMER (Salisbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the inquiry into the proposed dismissals at Cooper's Hill Engineering College which is being held, he will give an assurance that no professors or lecturers will be dismissed until Papers relating to the present inquiry have been laid before the House and an opportunity afforded for discussion.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I undertook that, before effect was given to the proposed educational reforms at Cooper's Hill College, all the teaching staff affected should have a full opportunity of giving their reasons before the Board of Visitors against the proposed reorganisation, and that the Council of India would suspend their decision until they had received the evidence and the Report of the Visitors upon it. Further than this I cannot go. Papers on the subject will be circulated, I understand, on Monday.

MR. WALTER PALMER: Will the noble Lord assure the House that no dismissal will take place until the new representatives of the Universities have taken their places on the Board of Visitors?

LORD G. HAMILTON: No, I cannot.

CANADIAN TARIFFS.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that in the Budget proposals of the Government of the Dominion of Canada the Minister of Finance maintained the preference of 33⅓ per cent. granted upon British goods in Canadian markets directly the colonies were freed from the restraining foreign treaties of 1862 and 1865; and can he state for how long he proposes to accept this arrangement without making any efforts to reciprocate towards Canadian products in the markets of the United Kingdom.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I think my hon. friend is well aware that the Canadian tariff differs so completely from our own that, while the action of Canada was confined to a reduction of very high duties in our favour, what he calls reciprocity on our part would involve the imposition of duties by us on imports from other countries for the benefit of Canada. I am not prepared to propose this, and I feel certain that Canada does not expect it. We have shown our sense of the spirit in which the Dominion has acted by the help we give towards the steamship service between Canada and Japan, and the assistance we have promised towards the Pacific cable.

INCOME TAX ABATEMENTS.

SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the estimated financial losses, at the present rate, of the abatements of the Income Tax voted in 1894 and in 1899.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: It is estimated that at the present rate of Income Tax (1s. in the £) the total financial loss involved by the changes in the scale of abatements introduced by the Finance Acts of 1894 and 1898 amounts to £1,470,000.

IMPORT DUTIES.

MR. WALTER PALMER: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, with a view to the provision of the increased revenue from taxation, which will be necessary, he will favourably consider the expediency of an *ad valorem* fiscal duty on certain imported manufactured articles amounting to more than one hundred millions of pounds in value, rather than any new duty on imported food products, whether used for actual food or manufacturing purposes.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: My hon. friend asks my opinion on a suggestion for a complete change in the fiscal policy which has been adopted by this country for many years. I feel that I cannot deal with such a matter in answer to a question.

MAINTENANCE OF ROYAL NAVY—PROPOSED TONNAGE TAX.

MR. CONOR O'KELLY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the advisability of raising the £30,000,000 asked for the maintenance of the Navy by a tonnage tax levied on all ships, native and foreign, entering British or Irish ports from oversea ports.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The suggestion appears to be that the whole cost of the Navy should be paid by a tax which would mainly fall on the mercantile marine of this country in addition to other taxation to which it is now liable, and which would probably involve reprisals from foreign countries on our ships in foreign ports. I do not think this would be a feasible proposal.

DISORDERLY HOUSES IN LONDON.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the statement made by the prosecuting counsel on Thursday last at Clerkenwell Sessions, in the case of persons indicted for keeping a disorderly house, to the effect that for the tenth time at least he had to bring to the notice of the Court that Bouillon Fleet, Limited, and Heinekens Lager Brewery Company were connected with the house, and to the statement made by Mr. M'Connell, K.C., in giving judgment, that he regretted that the directors were not present, and that they were the responsible persons who would probably pay the fines; and whether he will ascertain the names of the directors of the two companies, and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): My attention has not previously been called to this matter, but I will look into it and see whether any action is called for on my part.

HORSE EXPORTS TO ROTTERDAM.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a case at the petty sessional court, Grays, Essex, in which Inspector Buckingham stated that a horse suffering badly from canker and with large sores had been sold and sent to Rotterdam for sausage meat, to be subsequently re-imported to England; and whether he can impose some limit on this description of traffic.

*MR. RITCHIE: From inquiry which I have caused to be made it appears to be true that a horse with canker in the foot and some sore places in the skin caused by harness was shipped to Rotterdam a few days ago. But I find no evidence that the carcase would afterwards be prepared for human food, or that, if it were, it would be re-imported to England. Nor have I any power to check the traffic indicated in the question.

PREVENTION OF MINING ACCIDENTS —FRENCH METHODS.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has considered the report on the methods of preventing falls of roof adopted at the Courrières collieries, in which it is shown that the death rate from falls of roof and sides per 1,000 persons employed below ground for the ten years 1890 to 1899 is only 0·15, and the death rate per million tons of coal raised is only 0·39, while for the United Kingdom the average death rates are 0·78 per 1,000 persons employed below ground and 2·05 per million tons of mineral raised for the five years ending 1899; and whether he has taken or will take steps to bring about in the collieries of this country the adoption of methods of preventing falls of roof and sides similar to those which have produced such results at the Courrières collieries.

*MR. RITCHIE: As long ago as September last the Home Office communicated with all the coal-mine owners in this country with regard to the methods of preventing falls of ground adopted at the Courrières collieries and called their attention to the figures quoted in the hon. Member's question. On receiving the further special report to which he refers, I sent a second circular letter to the owners, enclosing a copy and pressing upon them the importance of studying the methods adopted in France. The Home Office has long been in communication with the Mining Association with a view to steps being taken to reduce the number of accidents from falls of ground, and I have arranged for a conference next month between the inspectors of mines and the representatives of the association on the subject.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): Is this system applicable to mines generally?

*MR. RITCHIE: I think only to coal mines.

POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS BILLS—SELECT COMMITTEE.

MR. M'KENNA: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state when he proposes to move for the appointment of a Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulation Bills.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): It is not certain whether the motion for the appointment of this Committee will be made this session. The matter is under consideration, and a decision will be arrived at shortly.

S.S. "ORONA"—ALLEGED INSUFFICIENT MANNING.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether his attention has been directed to a complaint from one of the crew of the s.s. "Orona," who alleges that this vessel signed on eight able seamen, which provides an effective crew of four men for each watch, but that the captain of this vessel has by the system he has adopted reduced the number of men in each watch to two, namely, one man on the look-out and one man at the wheel, which is in contravention of the Board of Trade manning scale, which provides that there shall be three effective hands in each watch; whether, seeing that this may endanger the lives of the crew of this vessel, he will call the attention of the owners to the captain's conduct and request that they will give instructions to stop this reduction of the effective number of hands in each watch; and whether he can state if this steamship has been engaged by the Admiralty for the conveyance of stores to His Majesty's troops in South Africa.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Yes, Sir; my attention has been called to the complaint referred to in the question, and I have been in communication with the owners of the "Orona." I find that the vessel carried eight A.B.'s, besides a boatswain, a carpenter, and four deck officers. This was in excess of the requirements of the Board of Trade, and I am advised that the vessel was certainly not undermanned. The Department has no power to interfere with the disposition of the hands by the master when at sea. I am informed that the "Orona" was engaged by the Admiralty, as stated in the question.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY—MIXED TRAINS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that on the 14th October last a cattle wagon without brake was detached at Munlochy from the passenger train leaving Muir of Ord at 8–38 a.m., and that on the 15th October a cattle wagon without brake was detached at Munlochy from the passenger train leaving Avoch at 9–26 a.m.; and, will he ascertain why the Highland Railway Company failed to provide these mixed trains with the continuous brake throughout, as required by the Board of Trade regulations.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The railway company point out that the 14th October last was a Sunday, and that no trains are run on Sundays on the branch in question. They add that on the 15th October no cattle wagon was detached at Munlochy, but that one was attached there, and that it was fitted with a continuous vacuum brake pipe in conformity with the requirements of the Board of Trade.

MR. WEIR: I am sorry I made a mistake in the date, but as this question is based on my personal experiences, will the right hon. Gentleman inquire further?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR replied in the negative.

MR. WEIR: I will put another question.

LIGHT RAILWAYS.

MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, considering the expiration at the end of the present year of the powers of the Light Railway Commissioners, he will grant a Return showing the number of applications for Orders and the number of Orders which have been passed by the Commissioners and confirmed by the Board of Trade in each year since the passing of the Light Railway Act, 1896; and also the number and amount of the loans which the Treasury has agreed to advance in each year under Section 4, and of the special advances under Section 5.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: This information is contained in Reports presented annually to Parliament in accordance with Section 13 (5) of the Act referred to.

BANKRUPTCY DELAYS.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it has been brought to his notice that creditors in bankruptcy cases suffer loss through delay in dealing with these cases, seeing that the interest goes to the Government and not to the creditors; whether he is aware of a case where from £40,000 to £50,000 was received by the Official Receiver in January, February, and March of 1900, and that no dividend has as yet been paid to the creditors, who thus, in addition to the loss of their money, are kept out of what remains, and also out of what these sums have earned as interest; and whether he can see his way to ameliorating this state of affairs.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am not aware of any undue delay in the official administration of bankruptcy cases resulting in loss to creditors. The investment of funds which cannot immediately be distributed is made pursuant to Section 76 of the Bankruptcy Act, 1883, and the dividends thus derived are applied solely to meeting the expenses of bankruptcy administration, and are taken into account in fixing the fees payable in respect of the bankruptcy proceedings. I cannot identify the case referred to, which I should probably have been able to do had it been in the hands of an official receiver.

CAPTAIN NORTON: But will not the right hon. Gentleman take steps to ameliorate this state of things?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I will have any specific cases inquired into.

CAPTAIN NORTON: But I am raising the cases as a whole, of the long detention of these funds.

PATENT LAWS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that British patents are taken out at the risk of the applicants, it being left to every person to protect his own rights, and that Great Britain is the only country which issues patents without satisfactory proof that the inventions described have not been previously patented, and without examining specifications before they are filed; and whether, in view of the importance to British trade of encouraging invention, the Government will take the necessary steps to place the British inventor in a more satisfactory position in this respect.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I do not think the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question accurately states the position as regards the issue of patents, and certainly there are countries other than Great Britain which make no search for novelty. The subject of search among prior specifications has, however, engaged the attention of the Board of Trade, and I would refer the hon. Member to the Report of a Departmental Committee presented to Parliament this session. At present I am unable to make any statement as to legislative action on that Report.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST IMPORTATION FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, in view of the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease in South Africa, adequate precautions have been and are being taken to prevent the disease from being conveyed from that country to the British Isles.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): We have no confirmation of the statement that foot-and-mouth disease is prevalent in South Africa. Even if it were, there is the fact that no cattle, sheep, or swine have been imported from South Africa during the last three years, and we have no reason to believe that such importation is probable. The danger of infection by hides and skins is, as I explained the other day, very small, and is guarded against in the same way as in the case of similar imports from the Continent.

MR. STEVENSON: Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that the disease is easily conveyed with clothing?

*MR. HANBURY: Yes. I know that.

CORN RETURNS.

MR. LOYD (Berkshire, Abingdon): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, beyond appointing officers of Inland Revenue, under Section 13 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, to be inspectors of corn returns, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue exercise any supervision over such inspectors in the performance of their duties under that Act.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The Commissioners of Inland Revenue retain the sole control over Excise officers appointed to act as inspectors of corn returns. The inspectors are responsible to the Commissioners for their due attendance at the markets, for seeing that all the requirements of the Corn Returns Act are strictly complied with, and for the accuracy and punctuality of the returns and summaries which they send to the Board of Agriculture.

MR. LOYD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether any and what steps are from time to time taken by the Board of Agriculture to ascertain whether the inspectors of corn returns receive, under the Corn Returns Act, 1882, complete and accurate returns of the prices at which British corn is sold in each of the towns specified by Order in Council.

*MR. HANBURY: The inspectors of corn returns are, of course, directly responsible to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. But after the returns collected by them have been sent to the Board of Agriculture, they are examined at once, and if any point arises which seems to call for further explanation the inspector is at once consulted. Such points are the possible inclusion of foreign corn, or considerable variations in price from one week to another, or errors in calculation. Any complaints received from outside sources, as, for instance, complaints of the omission of particular sales, are referred to the Board of Inland Revenue for investigation.

MR. LOYD: Is any distinction made in the Return between purchases from growers and purchases from dealers?

*MR. HANBURY: I think not.

MR. LOYD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any, and what, steps are from time to time taken by the Board of Trade to ascertain whether the inspectors of corn returns, under the Corn Returns Act, 1882, receive complete and accurate returns of the prices at which British corn is sold in each of the towns specified by Order in Council; can he state how many convictions have taken place since the commencement of the Act, 1st January, 1883, for failure to make return, and for making a false return; and in how many instances has the Board of Trade caused a return, or any particular in a return, to be omitted in the computation of the average prices on the ground that the Board had reason to believe such return or particular to be incorrect.

*MR. HANBURY: The whole of the functions of the Board of Trade under the Corn Returns Act have now been transferred to the Board of Agriculture. Twenty-three prosecutions and twenty-two convictions have taken place since the commencement of the Act for failure to make returns, but none for making a false return. Since 1892, when the Board of Agriculture took over the duty, there have been two or three cases in which returns or particulars in them have been omitted in the compilation of the averages.

LONDON WATER QUESTION—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will place the text of his proposals respecting London water before the House before the close of the present session, so that they may be duly considered by the people of London and the extra municipal areas affected during the Parliamentary recess.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): No, Sir; I am unable to assent to the suggestion.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SITE.

MR. KENYON (Denbigh): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Tunbridge, as representing the Charity Commission, whether the Bill now before the House of Lords for the sale of the site of Christ's Hospital has been sanctioned by the Commission; whether the Commissioners have suggested any restrictions on the sale of the site, and whether it is within the powers of the Governors to remove the ancient schoolrooms, including the dining-room and other historical buildings, pending the passage of their Bill through Parliament; whether the girls' day school and science school, contemplated in the Scheme of 1890, have been erected; and whether negotiations are still proceeding on the subject.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (Mr. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN, Kent, Tunbridge): The Commissioners received from the Council of Almoners a copy of the Christ's Hospital Bill on 11th December, 1900, and informed them in reply on the 14th of that month that the Commissioners had no objection to offer to the Bill as regards form or otherwise. They have not suggested that any part of the site should be excepted from sale. It is within the powers of the Governors, acting under the authority of the Commissioners, to remove at any time the buildings referred to or any part of them, but there could be no intention to remove them pending the passing of the Bill, as they are required for carrying on the school temporarily under Section 66 of the Scheme of 1890. No buildings for the girls' day school and day science school for boys have been erected. No negotiations on the subject of the Bill are proceeding.

THE NEW CODE—SIR J. GORST'S ADDRESS TO SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

Mr. KENYON: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he has any objection to lay upon the Table of the House a *precis* of the address he recently delivered to His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools.

The VICE-PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): I am unable to do this. What I said was confidential, and no record of it has been kept.

TRAINING COLLEGES FOR FEMALE TEACHERS.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.:) I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the lack of trained female teachers for elementary schools; and whether the Board of Education propose to take steps to provide for such deficiency by increased training college accommodation or by other measures.

Sir J. GORST: I have repeatedly called the attention of the House to the matter, and the Board of Education are giving every encouragement in their power to the establishment of additional training colleges.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD RETURNS.

Mr. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in estimating deficiencies in school accommodation in the district of the London School Board, the population of each parish as ascertained by the Census of 1891 is taken as the basis of calculation, or whether any attempt is made to ascertain the actual population of the present day.

Sir J. GORST: The basis of calculation is the census of children of the elementary school class taken in the spring of each year by the London School Board.

BROMPTON CEMETERY.

Mr. KEARLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government some years ago purchased Brompton Cemetery with a view to its being closed; if so, why this has not been done, and whether the accounts and Papers connected with the matter will be granted if a Return is moved.

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): Perhaps I may be allowed to reply to this question. It is not a fact that Brompton Cemetery was purchased by the Government with a view to its being closed, as the hon. Member will see by referring to 13 and 14 Vic. c. 52. The accounts and Papers covering nearly fifty years are very voluminous and of very little, if any, public interest, and I cannot agree to make such a Return as suggested.

Mr. KEARLEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman give us an account of the annual profit on this investment?

Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS: I must ask the hon. Member to give me notice of that question.

KEW GARDENS—LABOURERS' WAGES.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he has seen his way to meet the application of the labourers at Kew Gardens for a reduction of hours of labour, and an arrangement as to overtime pay.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I am happy to say that arrangements have been made to give the labourers in Kew Gardens a half-holiday on Saturdays, so that their hours of labour will be practically the same as those employed in the neighbouring Royal parks at Richmond and Hampton Court; and when they are required to stay on some Saturday afternoons they will receive the usual overtime pay.

INLAND REVENUE—RETIREMENT IN OUTDOOR SERVICE.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Retirement Order of the Board of Inland Revenue, No. 10, of 1897 (18th June), is still partially suspended in the Taxes Branch (outdoor department); and, if so, whether the reasons stated by the Secretary to the Treasury on 24th March, 1899, for the retention in the service of officers who had then passed the age limit still exist and to the same extent; and how many officers are at present employed in the Taxes Branch who come within the limits of the Retirement Order, and of what rank in the service; and can he name an approximate date by which it will be possible for the Board to enforce the rule with the strictness and impartiality promised by the Secretary to the Treasury two years since.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The Retirement Order referred to is still partially suspended in the Tax Surveying Branch of the Inland Revenue for the reason given by my predecessor. The Board, however, hope that within a year from the present time it may be practicable to bring the Order again into operation. It is to be observed that, notwithstanding the suspension of the Order, promotion in the Taxes Branch has been exceptionally rapid of recent years. Five officers are at present employed in the Taxes Branch who come within the limits of the Retirement Order.

CUSTOMS EXAMINING OFFICERSHIPS.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the Customs General Order 25 of the 20th instant announces that the number of examining officerships will gradually be reduced by ninety-six, and that as a consequence the general body of assistants who entered from 1891 to 1895 will not receive the salaries of examining officers until their twelfth year's service; and whether, in view of the fact that before the reorganisation assistants were promoted to examining officerships after nine years service, he will guarantee that this limit shall not be exceeded for the remainder of those at present in the class.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is true that the number of examining officers will be gradually reduced by ninety-six, but steps have been taken which will have the effect of safeguarding the interests of the assistants who are near their turn for promotion. The general body of assistants will proceed as now in the assistants' scale until they reach the maximum of £105, but after spending a year at the maximum they will, if fully qualified in all respects, be paid on the scale of second-class examining officers, and will be ranked as such as vacancies occur in the class. The assistants who during the last few months have been promoted to the rank of examining officer, second class, have each had, at the time of their promotion, a service (as outdoor officer and assistant) of between nine and ten years. No guaranteed rate of promotion existed prior to the reorganisation, neither can any such guarantee be given for the future; but it is not expected that the interests of assistants generally will be materially affected.

PARCELS POSTAGE—POSTMEN'S DELIVERY WEIGHTS.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the rule laid down by Mr. Lewin Hill at the Tweedmouth Inquiry, in reply to Question 11,983, to the effect that four or five of the lighter and less bulky parcels per man, of a total weight of not more than eleven pounds, is still in force; and, if so, will he cause it to be included in the postmen's rule book; and is he aware that when a postman complained lately of having to carry twenty-two pounds it was ruled that he had no grounds for complaint.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Such a rule was laid down some years ago for observance in London, but it has not been applied to the provinces. The present rule is that a postman delivering letters may also be called upon to deliver some of the lighter and less bulky parcels, provided the total weight of letters and parcels combined does not exceed thirty-five pounds, and it is not considered necessary to make any change. Inquiry will be made with regard to the particular case mentioned by the hon. Member if he will send particulars to the Postmaster General which will enable it to be identified.

EASTBOURNE POSTMEN—CHRISTMAS OVERTIME PAY.

MR. HOGG (Sussex, Eastbourne): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can state why the Eastbourne postmen have been called upon to refund moneys duly earned by them respecting Christmas overtime; and whether he is aware that the times of attendance were altered by the acting postmaster, thus causing men to work considerably over their eight hours, and the suspension of one delivery subsequently causing a double delivery.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The claims for extra duty performed by the Eastbourne postmen to which the hon. Member refers appear to be those for 21st December. As the extra time claimed for was larger than the circumstances seemed to justify, the matter was reserved for special inquiry, and the postmen were called upon to refund provisionally the money paid. The inquiry is proceeding, and if the claims are substantiated they will be paid, including any extra duty owing to altered times of attendance.

FEMALE POST OFFICE CLERKS—HOURS OF LABOUR.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state the custom of the Department regarding the hours of attendance for female sorting clerks and telegraphists, the earliest hour at which they are expected to attend, and up to what period of the evening they can be kept on duty.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: As a general rule female sorting clerks and telegraphists are not required to attend for duty before 6 a.m. or later than 10 p.m.; but where local conditions are favourable it is sometimes thought not necessary strictly to adhere to these hours.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH SERVICE—EFFICIENCY BARRIER.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, in view of the fact that a telegraphist having been kept at the efficiency barrier for one year and then being permitted to proceed suffers a loss of salary each year until he arrives at the maximum, whether the Postmaster General can state the reasons which led the Department to treat the stoppage of an increment at the efficiency barrier in an exceptional manner; and whether the Postmaster General will consider the advisability of placing it upon the same footing as an ordinary arrestment of increment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is a fact that a telegraphist who has been stopped at the efficiency bar, and who is subsequently allowed to proceed when efficient, has every year, until he reaches his maximum, a less salary than he otherwise would have had. The increment which takes an officer over the efficiency bar is treated in a different manner from ordinary increments, because it was intended to mark the attainment of a definite standard of efficiency at a certain point in the officer's career. The efficiency bar was instituted in order to ensure that no one should proceed to the maximum of the telegraphist's scale of pay without substantial guarantee of his efficiency and of the excellence of his conduct. To pass the efficiency bar is, therefore, equivalent to promotion to a higher class, and a man who fails through his own fault to pass the bar in the first instance has no claim to be relieved of the consequences. It is not in contemplation to alter the system which now prevails.

FAWCETT ASSOCIATION—ELECTIONEERING MANIFESTOES IN RETIRING ROOMS AT MOUNT PLEASANT.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state for what reason the candidates seeking election to the executive of the Fawcett Association and to the Committee of the Refreshment Department at the General Post Office have been called upon to explain why manifestoes bearing their names have been distributed in and allowed to lie on the tables in the sorters' retiring rooms without permission having first been obtained, seeing that in the case of the election to the executive of the Fawcett Association permission had been sought and obtained for the ballot boxes to be placed in the said rooms, and that the election for the Refreshment Department Committee is being conducted by the department itself.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The fact that permission has been given for the election of the executive of the Fawcett Association and the election of the Refreshment Committee to be held in the General Post Office did not carry with it the permission to distribute bills in large numbers inside the building, and it is not desirable that such permission should be given.

ISLAND OF SKYE MAILS.

Mr. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness-shire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the inhabitants of the Island of Skye at Portree on the 20th February; and, in view of the anxiety therein expressed in regard to the mail steamer, can the Postmaster General say that he does not contemplate any alteration such as would render the mail service less convenient than at present; and is he in a position to say that, in the event of the mails being sent via Mallaig, efforts will be made to secure an improved postal and steamer service.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has received a copy of the resolution referred to by the hon. Member, passed by the inhabitants of Skye at Portree on the 20th February. He does not contemplate any alteration in the hours of the mail steamer running between Kyle and ports in Skye, or any change which would render the mail service less convenient than at present. Any steamer service to or from Mallaig must, in the first instance, be experimental in character, and the Postmaster General is not in a position to say what service, if any, may ultimately be provided from that port.

PROTECTION OF TARBAT NESS AND ORD OF CAITHNESS FISHERIES.

*Mr. LEVESON-GOWER (Sutherlandshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate upon how many days between 20th January and 23rd February a Fishery Board cruiser or vessel patrolled the waters between Tarbat Ness and the Ord of Caithness, and on what days.

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I am informed by the Fishery Board that between the dates named the Fishery Board cruiser "Norna" patrolled the waters in question on seven days, namely, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 14th, and 18th February.

ROYAL TITLE IN SCOTTISH WRITS.

Mr. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, in resolving to retain the words "the Seventh" as an addition to His Most Gracious Majesty's name in writs proceeding from the Crown in Scotland, he has consulted the precedents of the two Sovereigns bearing the name of James who have reigned since the Union of the Crowns, and the cases of William and Mary and William after Mary's death; and if he will inform the House of the practice in Scotland in these cases.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: It is the fact that in the cases referred to by the hon. Member the writs passing the Signet in Scotland ran in the name of James, William and Mary, and William. But the present practice follows the more exact precedent under William the Fourth, after the Union of the kingdoms, in whose reign the writs in Scotand ran in the name of William the Fourth; and for this and other reasons it is intended to adhere to it.

Mr. BLACK: Did not the Union take place in the reign of James?

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Union of the Crown then took place.

Mr. BLACK: And is it not because of the Treaty of Union that Scotland is still treated as a separate kingdom?

[No answer was returned.]

SCOTTISH FISHERY HARBOURS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will grant a Return (Fishery Harbours, Scotland) showing the name of each fishery harbour on the coast of Scotland, the name of the county in which it is situated, and the name of the proprietor or authority responsible for its upkeep.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I must refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him to a somewhat similar question on the 11th instant,† which also applies to this question.

Mr. WEIR: Is the Scottish Office unwilling or unable to give the names?

[No answer was returned.]

Mr. WEIR: I shall raise the question on the Estimates.

LADYSMITH REJOICINGS AT LONDONDERRY.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether reports were furnished by the Londonderry Constabulary authorities to Dublin Castle with reference to the discharge of explosives from the city of Derry Walls into the house or yard of a man named M'Gowan on the occasion of the rejoicing over the relief of Ladysmith; whether the report contained the names of the parties who discharged the explosives, and can he explain why the Castle authorities refused to allow the police in Londonderry to institute proceedings against these parties; and will he lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the correspondence be ween the Dublin Castle authorities and the Constabulary authorities, as well as a copy of the Order made thereon by the then Chief Secretary for Ireland.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): The reports made by the police disclosed the names of two persons who were believed to have discharged rockets of a dangerous character. One of these rockets was found in the yard of John McGowan. I have already stated that the organiser of the demonstration, who was unaware that rockets of this character had been used, expressed his regret at the occurrence. It was decided under the circumstances not to institute proceedings against the parties, but to warn them that upon a repetition of the offence proceedings would be taken. It would be contrary to practice to lay departmental correspondence on the Table of the House.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: Why did the Castle authorities prevent the Londonderry police from prosecuting for the discharge of firearms in a proclaimed district?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have answered that question.

INCOME TAX COLLECTORS' PENSIONS —CASE OF JOHN FEORE.

Mr. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that John Feore, of Charleville, county Cork, who for forty-six years served as a collector of income tax, retired from his position some two years ago through old age and decrepitude; and, seeing that his petition to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for a grant or allowance was refused, whether a grant or pension could be given to John Feore, who is now in his seventy-fifth year, and otherwise through no fault of his own devoid of means of subsistence.

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† See *Debates*, Vol. xc., page 1116-7.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed by the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue that the facts are as stated, except that Mr. Feore retired, not two years ago, but in June last. The Board has no funds at its disposal out of which to award any grant, or pension, to collectors of taxes on their retirement.

IRISH HERRING FISHERY.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Government have considered the necessity of applying to Ireland the Acts at present in force in Scotland with reference to the marking or branding of herrings; whether he is aware that the absence of any official brand for Irish-cured herrings militates against this Irish industry in the English and Continental markets, and gives to Scotch curers an advantage over their Irish brethren; and whether legislation will be introduced this session for the purpose of remedying this grievance.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department of Agriculture has no evidence that the fact is as alleged in the second paragraph. If the system of herring branding were re-established in Ireland its cost would presumably, as in Scotland, be a tax on the industry; and it is not clear that the imposition of such a tax in Ireland would be attended by any compensating benefits. The whole question is receiving the consideration of the Department. I cannot undertake to give any pledge in the matter of legislation.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Congested Districts Board has been already asked by the herring curers of Donegal to have the law in Ireland assimilated with what it is in Scotland in this regard?

MR. WYNDHAM: That may be so, but I cannot form any opinion until I have looked into the question.

CRIME IN COUNTY DONEGAL.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the charge delivered by Mr. Justice Madden to the Donegal grand jury at the spring assizes, whereby he testified to the crimeless state of the county Donegal; and, if so, will the Irish Government give practical effect to his Lordship's utterance by revoking the proclamation under the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act, 1881, at present in force in that county.

MR. WYNDHAM: The learned judge in his address to the grand jury referred to the immunity from serious crime of the county Donegal. In reply to the second query, I have nothing to add to my reply to the similar question the hon. Member addressed to me on the 19th February.†

*MR. O'DOHERTY: That being so, is the right hon. Gentleman still of opinion that the laws as administered in Ireland are the most just and liberal laws in any constitutionally governed country in the world?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

DONEGAL MAGISTRACY.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the name of Mr. Humphrey Sheils, of Ballyhiernan, in the county of Donegal, has been submitted to the Lord Lieutenant for the commission of the peace for the county of Donegal, and seeing that the district in which Mr. Sheils resides is practically exclusively Roman Catholic, and that all the magistrates in the district are Protestants, whether the Irish Government will act on the precedent set by Lord Chancellor Walker, in the event of the Lord Lieutenant of the county refusing to appoint Mr. Sheils to the commission, and will direct the Lord Chancellor to make the appointment.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is not the intention of the Irish Government to act in the manner suggested in the question.

IRISH MAGISTRACY—THE MEMBER FOR MID-TIPPERARY.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there were no reporters present at the meetings at which the hon. Member for Mid-Tipperary was reported to have made the speeches for which the Lord Chancellor of Ireland removed him from the commission of the peace in the county of Tipperary; will he explain by what authority the Lord Chancellor acted in calling upon the hon. Member to convict himself of the alleged offence by acknowledging that he had made the speeches as reported; and on what grounds the Lord Chancellor came to the conclusion that there was a difference in the case of the hon. Member for Mid-Tipperary and those of the hon. Member for South Sligo and the hon. Member for North Mayo, so that he refused to appoint the hon. Member for Mid-Tipperary on his re-election as chairman of the Tipperary District Council, but appointed the other two hon. Members on their re-election to their respective offices. I wish to point out that very important parts of the original question have been eliminated, and without them the question is useless.

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† See *Debates*, Vol. lxxxix., page 487.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member could have appealed to me if necessary. If he cares to postpone it I will consider if anything more should be admitted. I cannot deal with it now.

MR. CULLINAN: No; I will put it as it is.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Lord Chancellor is unable to say whether the fact is as stated in the first paragraph. But the speeches, as reported, were of a character entirely inconsistent with the position of a magistrate, and the hon. Member in question, when furnished by the Lord Chancellor with a report of his speeches, did not repudiate the language attributed to him. The Lord Chancellor considered it his duty, in the exercise of his undoubted disciplinary control over the magistracy, to remove the hon. Member from the commission. This control is extended to *ex officio* magistrates by Section 95 (2) of the Act of 1898. I replied on Monday to the last paragraph.†

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): May I ask if the hon. Member for Mid-Tipperary is the Mr. Kendal O'Brien who, when he became an *ex officio* magistrate, three times refused to take the oath of allegiance to Her late Majesty, and did not do so until he was compelled?

MR. CULLINAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman give the House the phraseology of the speeches of which he complains?

MR. WYNDHAM was understood to decline to do that.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): Is it not a fact that the other Members mentioned in the question never apologised or withdrew their words?

MR. CULLINAN: Are we to understand that a Member who is entitled to sit in this House and legislate for the Empire at large is to be deprived of the privilege of sitting on a local bench of magistrates?

[No answer was returned.]

COMPENSATION FOR CRIMINAL INJURIES.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the comments of Sir Frederick Falkiner, Recorder of Dublin, on the working of the law relating to compensation for criminal injuries, especially in Dublin; and whether, seeing that Sir Frederick Falkiner has expressed the opinion that the law referred to ought to be altered, on the ground that it works injustice to the ratepayers, he will take into consideration the question of acting on Sir Frederick Falkiner's suggestions, and introduce a Bill to carry them out.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Perhaps I may be permitted to answer this question. The reply to the first query is in the affirmative. The observations of the learned Recorder had, I understand, reference to the wanton breaking of plate-glass windows which had been insured by the owners, the application for compensation for which, though nominally made by the owners, was in reality made in the interest of the insurance companies. It is doubtful whether any change in the law is necessary to correct this abuse, and it is not the intention of the Government to introduce legislation dealing with the whole subject of criminal injuries to property, which was discussed and considered at the passing of the Act of 1898 in both Houses of Parliament.

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† See preceding volume, page 1114.

IMPORTATION OF DOGS FROM IRELAND.

MR. WOLFF: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the regulation prohibiting the introduction of dogs from Ireland into Great Britain is still in force; if so, whether there is any prospect of its being rescinded at an early date; and, if not, what is the reason.

MR. HANBURY: There is no prospect of the Order being rescinded so long as rabies unfortunately continues to exist in Ireland. A case of rabies was reported from county Westmeath less than a fortnight ago.

MR. WOLFF: Was this only a solitary instance?

MR. HANBURY: No, there have been several cases.

IRISH ORDNANCE SURVEY—ALLEGED MISDESCRIPTIONS.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why or by whose orders the gentlemen having charge of the revision of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland have marked on their revised sheets a venerable Roman Catholic church in the village of Kilteely by the term chapel instead of church; and whether, in view of the fact that the principal place of worship in every parish is by canon law titled church not chapel, he will take steps that all such places of worship are designated as churches on the Ordnance maps.

MR. HANBURY: There are as yet no published revision maps of the village of Kilteely. The Ordnance Survey is not, I presume, bound by the canon law, and they have hitherto followed the name given to buildings by the inhabitants of the district. If the practice of the inhabitants in naming their buildings is in accordance with the canon law as stated by the hon. Member we shall be glad to designate Kilteely Church accordingly on the maps.

POST OFFICE EXAMINATIONS IN IRELAND.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state the number of candidates who presented themselves for examination at the last examinations held respectively in Belfast, Cork, and Dublin, for clerkships in the post offices in those cities, and the number of successful candidates respectively at said examinations; the number who were examined at the last examination held in the city of Londonderry for clerkships in the post office, the number who were successful, where was the examination held, and who conducted it; and whether steps will be taken to treat Derry similarly to every other Irish city in the way of throwing these examinations open to the general public.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The result of the competition for men learners held on the 26th ultimo is not yet known; but the numbers who competed at the July examination were as follows:—At Belfast, forty-six, of whom fifteen were successful; at Cork, forty-five, of whom ten were successful; and at Dublin, eighty-seven, of whom fifteen were successful. The numbers of female competitors were:—At Belfast, 122, of whom six were successful; at Cork, twenty-five, of whom one was successful; and at Dublin, eighty-six, of whom five were successful. The last competition for female learners at Londonderry was held in May, 1900:—Seven candidates were nominated by the Postmaster General, and two were successful. The last competition for a male learnership was held in July, 1899; three candidates were nominated by the Postmaster-General, but one did not present himself for examination, and neither of the others obtained a qualifying number of marks. The examinations at Londonderry were conducted by the Civil Service

Commissioners, who made all arrangements in connection with the examinations. The system of recruiting the class of sorting clerks and telegraphists varies with the size and importance of the office concerned, and it is not proposed to introduce at Londonderry the system which exists at offices of the size and importance of Belfast, Cork, and Dublin.

CASTLEISLAND (KERRY) MAIL SERVICE.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that owing to recent alterations in train service the mails which are due for delivery in Castleisland, county Kerry, at 8.10 a.m., are generally from an hour to an hour and a half late, and that, as the outgoing mail leaves at 10.5, the limited time allowed traders causes a loss of twenty-four hours often in replying to English letters, which delay means loss to persons engaged in the butter and egg trade; and whether he will make arrangements in future to suit the people of Castleisland in accordance with the representations made to the local postmaster on the subject.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General regrets that owing to loss of time by the mail train the morning mails have recently been somewhat unpunctual in arrival at Castleisland. Repeated representations on the subject have been made to the railway company, who have promised to effect an improvement in this respect, and it is hoped the service will be more regularly performed in the future.

GLENCOLUMBKILLE SUB-POST-MASTER.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the present sub-postmaster at Glencolumbkille was at the date of his application and of his appointment as sub-postmaster a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was not either a resident or householder in the town of Glencolumbkille, and that he has not exclusive possession of the premises in which he purposes conducting the business of the office; will he state what are the total emoluments per annum attached to this position; whether the head postmaster of the district recommended another applicant to the Postmaster General for the appointment; and upon what grounds did the Postmaster General refuse to act on the recommendation of the head postmaster of the district.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The present sub-postmaster of Glencolumbkille was at the time of his application for the appointment a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary. At the time of his appointment he had already retired from the Constabulary and had made arrangements to become the tenant of the premises in which the post office work is carried on and to provide sufficient accommodation. The total emoluments of the office are about £20 15s. a year. The head postmaster of the district is not called upon to make recommendations to the Postmaster General.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: Is it not the practice in the Post Office for the head postmaster to make the recommendation, and for the person so recommended to be appointed by the Postmaster General?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have said it is not.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: Are we to understand that this man was appointed not for his efficiency, but for his political views?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. FLAVIN: What special qualification have the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary for these sub-postmasterships?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

DERRY CENTRAL RAILWAY.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury upon what terms the Treasury have disposed of their interest in the Derry Central Railway to the working company, the Belfast and

Northern Counties Railway Company; what was the total sum due to the Government for principal and interest at date of sale; what was the amount of capital subscribed by the shareholders; whether anything is to go to the shareholders out of the purchase money paid to the Treasury; and whether the Treasury have made any arrangements as part of the contract of sale for a more efficient train service upon this railway than that which has existed up to the present.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Treasury have disposed of the line of the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company for £105,000, of which £20,000 goes to the Derry Central Railway Company for division among their shareholders and secretary. The total sum due to the Government at the date of the sale was £131,720 18s. 4d., of which £100,000 was principal and £31,720 18s. 4d. arrears of interest. The subscribed capital was £120,340. Of this £10,000 was subscribed by the purchasers, who are to receive nothing in respect of their shares. Besides stipulating that the public shall be afforded at least the same facilities as they at present enjoy, the Board of Works have arranged for a complete system of through rates and fares similar to that on the Belfast and Northern Counties line, and for a full and free flow of traffic of every description in connection with this railway.

BUNCRANA BARRACKS, COUNTY DONEGAL.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the War Department have determined to erect military barracks at Buncrana, county Donegal, in connection with the new forts erected on Lough Swilly, and if so, what are the obstacles, if any, in the way of the works being at once proceeded with.

LORD STANLEY: Yes, Sir. The question of selecting a site is under consideration. As soon as a convenient site at a suitable price is secured, the barracks will be proceeded with.

IRISH UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state the terms of reference to the Royal Commission to inquire into University Education in Ireland; and whether the inquiry is to cover the grievances of Roman Catholics; and, if so, whether it has been finally determined to exclude Trinity College from the scope of the inquiry, and to preclude the possibility of considering any suggested remedy for present grievances that might affect Trinity College.

The following question also appeared on the Paper—

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in case the Government should advise His Majesty to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon questions connected with University Education in Ireland, they will extend the scope of the inquiry to the Royal College of Maynooth, in order to ascertain what facilities could be afforded at Maynooth for the education of Roman Catholic laymen.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have indicated, in answer to an appeal made by the hon. Member for East Mayo, that the final settlement of the terms of reference will not be made until after the debate on the motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN BILL.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he will, before the Second Reading of the Demise of the Crown Bill, circulate a memorandum explanatory of its provisions.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): No, Sir. I have already explained the provisions of the Bill.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, considering the most important nature of this Bill, and the serious consequences which its rejection might have upon right hon. Gentlemen on the Front Bench, the motion for the Second Reading will be postponed until we have the official report of the explanation of the Attorney General.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the request of the hon. Gentleman is rather an unusual one. This is a short Bill, and hon. Members will be able to discuss it adequately.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Does the right hon. Gentleman understand that this Bill deals with the question whether he himself has not, by accepting re-appointment——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! A discussion on the Bill cannot be allowed.

QUESTIONS—PROPOSED LIMITATION OF NUMBERS.

Mr. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will consider the advisability of amending the Standing Orders so that no Member shall be entitled to ask more than one question upon one day.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not deny that the number of questions put down by individual Members sometimes amounts to an abuse, but I do not know that we have yet reached the point when it is desirable to adopt the suggestion of my hon. friend. There are other abuses which lead to a greater waste of time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): Can the First Lord of the Treasury say what the business will be on Monday?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I propose to take as the first Order on Monday the Second Reading of the Demise of the Crown Bill, and as the second the Army (Annual) Bill.

[CIVIL LIST.]

Power given to the Select Committee to report their observations.

Report brought up and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 110.)

Minutes of proceedings, with an appendix, to be printed. (No. 110.)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, in moving that the House meet to-morrow at eleven, explained that the meeting would be purely formal, and that the attendance of Members would not be necessary, a House would be made by Black Rod. The ordinary business would be taken as usual at three o'clock.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do meet to-morrow at Eleven of the clock a.m."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): For my part, I do not quite understand the necessity for meeting at eleven o'clock. Why cannot this House go up at three o'clock to hear the Royal assent given to the Bill? Is it for the convenience of the Lords, and to save them the trouble of meeting again at three o'clock?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It will be absolutely necessary that the Royal Assent should be given to the Appropriation Bill at an early hour to-morrow.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: That is the point I do not understand. There may be some urgent necessity which I do not understand.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member need not be brought here. There will be no business done. The early hour of meeting is in order to enable the Treasury to carry out the business entrusted to them before the end of the financial year. I hope the hon. Gentleman will accept that explanation. The proposal imposes no inconvenience on this House in any way.

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW BILLS.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS AMENDMENT.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon): I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Acts. This Bill is drawn mainly on the lines of that of last year, but the fact that there are some new provisions, while several of the former proposals are omitted, will, I think, secure approval and prevent a good deal of misapprehension on the part of hon. Members on both sides of the House. I consider that some of the former proposals are not of such a character as to make it desirable that I should reintroduce them. I will merely state for the convenience of the House what those provisions are. I propose to omit what was called the two-shift clause and the clause with reference to overtime in certain trades. There was also a clause repealing certain schedules as to overtime which were unsatisfactory in their working, and substituting the order of the Secretary of State for the schedules. I do not think it will at all damage the Bill if this proposal is left out. In regard to the important question of dangerous trades, the House knows that the present law may entail many arbitrations as regards the special rules proposed by the Secretary of State. That was proposed to be remedied by the Bill of my predecessor last year, who proposed that the regulations should be referred to a referee, and that the referee should come to a decision which would be binding on the Secretary of State. I am bound to say that I think there are strong objections to this principle of arbitration altogether. The effect of arbitration is really to place in the hands of an outsider the absolute power of rejecting, or otherwise, a proposal made by the Secretary of State. It is taking the responsibility off the shoulders of the Minister and placing it on the shoulders of an irresponsible outsider. For my own part, I do not think that is a satisfactory position either for one side or the other. I think the responsibility on such an important matter should rest upon the shoulders of the Secretary of State. I propose, therefore, in the new Bill that the Secretary of State should be responsible for making the rules for dangerous trades, subject to two conditions—first, that he should be bound to make the fullest inquiries and receive evidence in public, and, secondly, that the rules should lie on the Table of both Houses of Parliament for six weeks before they take effect. There is another important modification. The present state of the law relating to laundries is unsatisfactory and confused. One of the proposals in last year's Bill was that the Secretary of State might by order apply the provisions of the Factory Acts to laundries. I propose now to deal with the matter by legislative action instead of by the action of the Secretary of State. I propose to apply the provisions of the Factory Acts to laundries, preserving, however, the existing latitude as to the daily distribution of hours of employment so long as the statutory weekly total is not exceeded. It was proposed in last year's Bill to continue the exception in favour of any institution conducted in good faith for religious and charitable purposes. That exception, in my view, is indefensible. The laundries conducted by these institutions ought not to be worked on conditions other than those imposed on ordinary laundries with which they may be competing. If they are not so worked they have nothing to fear from the application of the Acts to them, but I propose to insert special provisions to meet the objections which have been expressed against the inspection of religious institutions by ordinary factory inspectors. In conclusion I may say that important powers as to sanitary matters are given to the local authorities, and there are other small amendments of the law with which I will not now trouble the House. I hope I have said sufficient to show what the main alterations in the Bill are, and I trust they may prove satisfactory to the House.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I have no doubt the right hon. Gentleman could quote precedents in support of the course he has taken, but had it been otherwise I should have been disposed to protest against the introduction of so important a Bill under the provisions of what is called the ten minutes rule. I rise, in the first instance, for the purpose of expressing the satisfaction which I feel in common, I am sure, with a very large number of Members on both sides of the House, at the resolution which the hon. Gentleman has come to to omit some of the most objectionable provisions in the measure of last year. I am very glad that the right hon. Gentleman has deferred to the representations which were made from all quarters, particularly with regard to the double shift clause, and I may express especial satisfaction that the Government are going to deal in a comprehensive and, as I think, thoroughly logical fashion with the difficulty which has hitherto arisen respecting the power of arbitration. I have over and over again expressed the opinion that those provisions were obsolete and unworkable, and that the only satisfactory way of dealing with them was to throw the responsibility on the Secretary of State, subject to Parliamentary supervision and control. I am very glad that the right hon. Gentleman has incorporated that provision in his Bill. Of course, as regards laundries one must reserve final judgment until one sees the provisions of the Bill. But there again I may say that it is with great satisfaction I find the right hon. Gentleman has been converted to the proposal I made in 1895 to bring laundries under the general operation of the Factory Acts, and which I was unable at that time to carry through from causes I shall not at the moment specify. I think the right hon. Gentleman's proposal is a substantial modification in the right direction of the existing law. Upon other points it is not possible at this stage to express an opinion, but I would suggest that in the interval, which I presume will be a reasonably long one, between now and when we shall be called upon to discuss the Second Reading, as this is a matter which affects a great many interests in this country, the right hon. Gentleman should circulate with the Bill a memorandum or explanatory statement, comparing the measure not only with the provisions of last year's Bill, but also with the existing state of the law.

Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Ritchie and Mr. Jesse Collings.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Factory and Workshop Acts," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 130.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS CONSOLIDATION.

*MR. RITCHIE: I wish to ask the leave of the House to introduce a Bill to consolidate the Factory Acts. While it is quite clear that it is desirable to consolidate the law relating to various matters, it is more than ever desirable that laws relating to the working classes should be consolidated and made as simple as possible. It is sometimes said that the law ought to be consolidated before it is amended, or, on the other hand, that it ought to be amended and at some future time consolidated. Sometimes consolidation is promised after amendment, and a considerable period elapses before the consolidation takes place. I want both these processes to proceed *pari passu.* I hope that both Bills will be sent to a Committee upstairs, and that that Committee will do as it did with the Public Health (London) Bill and the Housing of the Working Classes Bill, namely, that it should take the amending Bill first in Committee, go through all the Amendments proposed in the Bill or which any member of the Committee desires to propose, on the understanding that when the Bill is amended it should be then returned along with the Consolidation Bill to the draftsman with instructions to amend the Consolidation Bill by the Amendments in the Amending Bill. The Bills would then go before the Grand Committee, and the clauses be gone through *pro forma*: they would then be returned to the House as one Bill, which the House would consider on Report. Therefore we may hope that in one session we should get both the Amendments and the consolidation of the existing law that we desire.

Bill to consolidate the Factory and Workshop Act, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Ritchie and Mr. Jesse Collings.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS CONSOLIDATION BILL.

"To consolidate the Factory and Workshop Acts," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 131.]

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

*MR. URE (Linlithgowshire) said that the House and the country were surprised to learn that the negotiations for peace between General Botha and Lord Kitchener had come to nothing, and that the much-looked-for cessation of hostilities had not been brought about. On the 22nd of February Lord Kitchener received a letter from General Botha intimating his desire to treat for peace, and that letter was written after consultation between General Botha and his fellow generals, on the distinct understanding that the question of the independence of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony lay outside the region of discussion. Later on a prolonged interview took place between General Botha and Lord Kitchener at Middelburg, and at that interview Lord Kitchener said that General Botha showed good feeling and seemed very anxious to bring about peace, ten different topics being discussed. On the 6th of March Lord Kitchener was in possession of the Government's proposals, and on the afternoon of the 7th of March the letter from the Government was sent by special messenger to General Botha. This was followed by nine days' silence. At the end of that time there came a most startling letter from the Boer general, in which he intimated to Lord Kitchener that, after what had passed between them he should refuse to recommend for consideration the terms offered by the British Government. General Botha did not say that these terms had been discussed and afterwards refused; he stated no objection of any kind to them, but simply refused to submit them for consideration. That seemed to indicate that something had passed between the two generals on the 28th of February which must have made it plain to Lord Kitchener that the proposals of the British Government could not possibly have been accepted. What that something was the Papers did not disclose, and he thought it was the general feeling of the House that the time had come when the Government, without any detriment to the public service, might make a full and frank disclosure of all they knew on the subject.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Surely the hon. Gentleman is aware that I have again and again said we have disclosed to the House all we know. There is nothing beyond what is in these Papers.

*MR. URE assumed that communications had taken place since the papers were laid.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No.

*MR. URE said if that was the case he thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree that it was right they should turn to the proposals themselves in order that they might discover, if possible, where the mystery was. In turning to the proposals of the Government, he wished to say that he assumed that General Botha's desire for peace was honest and sincere. If his assumption was wrong, then there was no mystery to reveal. It appeared to him that of the ten topics discussed on the 28th of February the treatment by His Majesty's Government of seven afforded no sort of ground or reason for the curt refusal on the part of General Botha even to entertain the proposals. His Majesty's Government offered the assurance that at the end of the war there would be no special war tax put upon the Boer farmers, and that assistance would be readily granted to those who were willing to take the Oath of allegiance to the King. No difficulty was raised about the return of the Boer prisoners from St. Helena and Ceylon. With regard to the Kaffir question, often burning and troublesome, all that General Botha seemed to be anxious about was that the Kaffirs should not have the franchise until representative government was conceded to the two colonies, and the British Government readily agreed to that. His Majesty's Government was prepared to grant complete amnesty for all *bona fide* acts of war, and it was only in the case of colonials who desired to return to Natal or Cape Colony that the Government proposed that they should be relegated to the treason law of their own country. Lord Kitchener proposed that in the case of the colonials a recommendation should be made merely to disfranchise them; but he could not believe that an alteration of that kind was the rock on which these peace overtures were wrecked.

He turned now to the remaining three topics discussed, which he admitted stood in a wholly different position from those to which he had hitherto adverted. There was, in the first place, the question of liability for the debts of the two republics. That was a topic on which Lord Kitchener told them that General Botha laid special stress. Botha's point was intelligible enough. He said that if they were taking over the assets of the two republics, why should they not also take over their legal debts? He referred to the notes, amounting to something less than £1,000,000 sterling, issued by the Boers during the campaign. He would not argue the legal point, because this seemed to him to be a question of policy, and of policy only. The proposal seemed to have commended itself to Lord Kitchener, but His Majesty's Government characterised the seemingly modest proposal suggested in his Lordship's draft letter as highly dangerous. His Majesty's Government seemed to suggest that there might be some feeling engendered on the part of the loyalists if money was paid to those who had assisted and supplied the enemy. All he wished to say was that concessions of this kind, if freely granted, would only expose them to the charge of undue generosity, and would not afford a foothold for further agitation. When they came to examine this closely they would find that it was not a concession at all, but a thing which in the end would turn out to their own benefit. There was no element of peril in it, and that was the reason why Lord Kitchener and Sir Alfred Milner were ready to grant this concession as a ready means of settlement.

Then came, in the second place, the proposal to give assistance to the Boer farmers who had suffered loss during the course of the war. It was impossible to shut their eyes to the fact that this was one of the most important topics discussed at the conference between Lord Kitchener and General Botha. But, though Lord Kitchener freely admitted that they should give some assistance, the Government said this proposal too was dangerous, and they made what, in his judgment, was a very vital and fatal change in the suggestions of the men on the spot, and one which, as he gathered, was deeply regretted by both Lord Kitchener and Sir Alfred Milner. They thought that the introduction of the words "by loan" would weaken the effect of the concession. The men on the spot entertained a strong objection to the introduction of those words. Lord Kitchener's reason for this was that in view of the suspicious nature of the Boers he thought this alteration would be regarded as an attempt to get the farmers into the clutches of the Government. Was there any hon. Member present who did not feel the force of that remark? The objection of the Government to this proposal seemed to be that they would be favouring enemies as against friends. He had every sympathy with the position of the loyalists, who, under very trying circumstances, had been true to the British connection, and they were entitled to every consideration and respect. He thought, however, that the House would be disposed to agree with the men on the spot, who were well able to judge of the circumstances under which they were negotiating. On the other hand, he should have thought that the interests of the loyalists were very safe in the hands of Sir Alfred Milner, because he did not think that the very worst enemy of that distinguished and capable public servant would suggest that he was at all likely to ride roughshod over the loyalists, or brush aside their feelings and sentiments.

He would now turn to the last topic discussed at the Middelburg Conference—he alluded to the question of the future government of the two colonies. The Conference took place on the express understanding that the question of independence was to remain outside the negotiations altogether, and the Conference took place after General Botha had communicated with his fellow generals. Let the House consider the contrast between the proposals of Lord Kitchener, on the one hand, and those of the Government, on the other, in order to see if they could discover the real cause of the failure of the negotiations. Lord Kitchener proposed that as soon as the surrender was complete military law should come to an end and that civil administration should take its place. The Government, on the other hand, proposed that as soon as practicable military administration—not military law—should cease that civil government in the form of Crown Colony government should take its place. He observed that in the draft letter reference to Crown Colony government was studiously kept out. Crown Colony government had a somewhat evil reputation in South Africa, which was not confined exclusively to the men of the Dutch race, but it was largely shared by many of those who were loyal to the British connection. He quite appreciated the reason given by the Government that it might be necessary afterwards to maintain military law, but surely the Governor appointed would be entitled to claim that at his own discretion. He should have placed in the very front the proposal that military administration should cease, and not military law. But there is a still much more important proposal. Lord Kitchener proposed that the new Government should consist of a Governor and a nominated Executive, "with or without" an advisory elected Assembly. That phrase was a little vague, and wanted explanation, but he thought, at all events, it would open up a hope that—and he thought it would become a certainty—from the outset there would be an element of representative government, through which they would be able to ascertain the wishes and desires of those who were to be governed. That door was shut at once by the alteration proposed by His Majesty's Government—namely, that the new Government should consist of a Governor, assisted by a nominated Executive and by a nominated advisory council, consisting of officials and some non-officials, who should be nominated by the Crown. He thought that was a most unfortunate change, for it at once precluded all hope of the representative element being present. He saw no danger whatever in allowing this elected element to remain. As soon as circumstances permitted free representative government should be conceded to the two colonies, but what His Majesty's Government put forward was that as soon as circumstances permitted a representative element should be introduced, and ultimately free representative government probably would be conceded. Those changes were made by the Government in the interests of precision and exact phraseology. He was bound to say that he could not congratulate the Government upon the phraseology employed. Who knew what a "representative element" meant? and where in the English language could they find a word more vague and shadowy than "ultimately"? In their recent debate upon the terms of settlement he found it was often said that the time had come to substitute the statesman for the soldier. When he read those proposals he was inclined to think that that statement ought to be reversed. He preferred very much the proposals of Lord Kitchener to those which had been framed by the Government. He could scarcely conceive that such changes would have been made in phraseology which had been carefully framed by Lord Kitchener unless the Government attached importance to the change.

He was sure that the House would welcome from the Government some further explanation in regard to the reasons for making such important changes in Lord Kitchener's despatch. It was said that General Botha entertained a strong objection to Sir Alfred Milner, but if that had been the cause of the failure of the negotiations it was inconceivable that it should not have found a place in the Papers laid before the House. He had failed to discover in the detailed statement of what had taken place at the Middelburg Conference the smallest hint or suggestion that there was anything in the personality of the High Commissioner to prevent the two generals from coming to terms. On the contrary, he found in every important particular in which the Government differed from Lord Kitchener Sir A. Milner was on the side of Lord Kitchener and against the Government. What was the reason why the statement was made by the right hon. the Colonial

Secretary on Saturday last?* He was wholly at a loss to comprehend what it could be. Since the ill-starred day of the publication of the Spion Kop despatches no more mischievous thing had been done by the Government than that statement of the right hon. Gentleman. He was told that the same plea would be put forward for making that statement as for the publication of the Spion Kop despatches—it was to feed the public appetite. But he thought they would all be in a chronic state of indigestion if that were the fare on which the Government proposed to nourish them.

He was desirous that there should be no mistake whatever in regard to his views in this matter. He saw in the early part of the telegram of 1st March sent by Lord Kitchener to the right hon. gentleman the Secretary of State for War, that at the outset of the discussions General Botha expressed a doubt as to whether he could bring about peace without independence. If there were any truth in that, if that doubt were realised, he, for his part, regretfully admitted that the campaign must be fought to the bitter end. Lord Kitchener added that at the beginning of the conference General Botha strove hard for some sort of independence, and General Kitchener at once refused to discuss the subject, and instantly dropped it. Here Lord Kitchener was unquestionably right. A claim for complete independence he thoroughly understood although he disagreed with it; a claim for all the rights and privileges of a self-governing British colony he also comprehended, and thoroughly agreed with it; but a claim for some sort of independence, or a modified form of independence, for some stunted thing, some debased image of the genuine article, he could not comprehend. He did not believe there was any man in that House who was honestly anxious for a lasting and enduring peace in South Africa who could for a moment think of suggesting it. Why, to give the Boers a modified form of independence would be to give them a stone wherewith to break their own heads, and to lay up a store of disaffection. Current criticism admitted that it was here where was to be found the true secret of the failure of the negotiations. He could scarcely think so, because when General Botha entered into these negotiations he agreed—and that after consultation with his fellow-generals—to leave the question of independence outside; and he (the hon. Member) could not see why General Botha should have taken the extreme course of refusing absolutely to consider the proposals of the British Government merely because some modified form of independence was not offered. As to the proposals of the Government as a whole, he made no hostile attack on them. He had offered his criticism on the points which he thought were open to challenge; but that criticism had gone no further than the criticism of the civilian and the soldier on the spot who understood the circumstances under which they were negotiating. He would not utter a single word suggesting that the proposals as a whole were not fair and generous, or that would give His Majesty's Government any excuse for saying that Members on that side of the House were unreasonable persons; nor would he give the Government any excuse for receding from the position they had taken up, and falling back into the arms of the extremists, who would be only too ready to say to the Government, "You have already gone too far; your generosity has been unappreciated; never again." On the contrary, he would infinitely rather that the Government, if they did not adhere to their present position, should go to the length to which Lord Kitchener went. However, he did not suggest for a moment that they should reopen the negotiations. That was out of the question, after the curt refusal of General Botha even to consider the terms proposed. The overtures must come from the Boers; and if they did come he hoped that His Majesty's Government would stand firm in the position they had taken up, would go one short step further, and be prepared to agree to the terms which Lord Kitchener had suggested. He agreed with the statement in the papers, that never in the history of the world had such generous and fair terms been offered by the victors to the vanquished. [Cries of "Oh, oh!" from the Irish Benches.] He defied any student of history to contradict that.

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* See preceding volume, p. 991.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): They are the meanest terms ever offered.

*MR. URE said that, at all events, it was his opinion that the terms offered were fair and generous. They should, however, never forget that the case they had in hand was unique, and out of the common; for the belligerents in arms against us in the field were all men who might some day come to be subjects of His Majesty; the war-stricken country whose homesteads they were asked to restore was at present part of His Majesty's dominions; and the humble creditors whose claims we were asked to pay would, they hoped, soon pass under the benign sway of the British Crown. Under these circumstances they could afford to be generous. He thought the country might rest assured that the claims of the loyalists were perfectly safe when they had Sir A. Milner to look after them; and the Government could afford, with Lord Kitchener at their back, to treat with the contempt they deserved the braggadocios who shouted that weakness and cowardice were the proper names for the lenity and magnanimity which the Government might display.

MR. STROYAN (Perthshire, W.) said that if he asked the indulgence of the House for a brief space it was based on the fact that he had had a connection for more than twenty years with South Africa, and that fifteen of these years were spent in that country. He was a South African colonist, in the proper sense of the term, before gold was discovered on the Rand, and before Britons were termed Uitlanders in the land which owed everything to their energy and enterprise. Although he had not been connected actively in business with South Africa for some years past, he had still investments in that country, and was determined to hold these investments. He went further, and said that it was his intention that his children should do something towards the development of that most important portion of His Majesty's dominions. He felt that he voiced the views of every loyal South African when he said that the terms offered by Lord Kitchener to General Botha were generous in the extreme. He felt he spoke for every loyal South African when he said that he was heartily glad that those generous terms were offered; for it showed to the world, and to the Boers themselves, the good feelings entertained towards them by the people of this country. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] Boer and Briton must live together in the future and work side by side for the prosperity of their common country. He was convinced, however, that the Government had gone as far in the direction of generosity as it would be safe to go. To offer better terms would simply mean to risk being seriously misunderstood by friend and foe alike. The first essential of a permanent settlement was that the terms should, besides being generous to the vanquished, be just and fair to our own loyal colonists; and, above all. it was essential that the terms should be dignified and incapable of being misunderstood. He entirely agreed with His Majesty's Government in the substitution of the term "assistance by way of loan" for the more vague promise of assistance contained in Lord Kitchener's proposed letter. Statesmen, in matters like this, must come to the assistance of the great soldier. They must be precise, if they would avoid misunderstanding. The alteration was, in his opinion, absolutely necessary. No amount of generosity would have satisfied the Boers or would have been accepted by them as an adequate fulfilment of that undertaking. They would have misunderstood it. Besides, free gifts of money would have been misrepresented, and would have been looked upon as the purchase-price of peace. Peace under such conditions we could not have, and peace under such conditions would not have been lasting. He had, personally, implicit confidence in Sir A. Milner. He had watched his career since that distinguished Statesman first became connected with South Africa. For the first time, however, he could not see eye to eye with him. He could not agree with him in his preference of Lord Kitchener's proposals to those cabled by His Majesty's Government. They were told that General Botha objected to Sir A. Milner. He could quite believe that, and he thought the House would agree with him that that was quite natural. He fancied that the great majority of the enemies of this country in South Africa, whether they were open or secret enemies, objected to Sir A. Milner. He had no doubt that these men equally objected to Lord Kitchener, General French, and a number of others of the most successful of our generals, and, that being so, they fell back on the rebel cries of abuse. Sir Alfred Milner's ability and fitness for the difficult and trying position to which he had been appointed had been amply demonstrated and conclusively proved by the fact that every known rebel and disloyal subject throughout South Africa objected to him and desired his recall, whilst, on the other hand, he had the confidence of the loyalists and the British to an extent unprecedented in the case of any official in South Africa, and to stultify or diminish his influence there would be a blow to British prestige. The interests of British supremacy and the Empire itself made his presence in the country necessary for the time being at least. In any terms of peace we must be just to our friends as well as generous to our enemies. He implored the Government not to lay themselves open to the reproach, which at the conclusion of the last Boer war was made with a considerable amount of justice, that "loyalty in South Africa does not pay." The much-abused British in South Africa were, after all, the same people as ourselves—willing, perhaps, to undergo more hardships and exercise more self-denial than, happily, we were called upon to in an old country like England—and many of them had been under arms for the Empire. It had been suggested that these men might be vindictive; brave men were never vindictive. They had given Great Britain troop after troop; they gave the Imperial Light Horse, that magnificent body of men who fought shoulder to shoulder with the Gordons and rode in the van to the relief of Mafeking. Those who systematically and indiscriminately endeavoured to belittle and besmirch such a community were no friends of that closer union which was binding the colonies to the mother country, of which we had heard so much in recent years—that closer union which had stood the British Empire in such good stead during the present crisis, and which we should have to preserve if Great Britain was to last.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): The hon. Member who has just sat down has devoted his time to uttering observations with which everyone will agree. I should like to draw attention to one point, which is indeed a matter of more general interest than the matter under discussion, but which will not, I hope, be overlooked, because it has great bearing upon it—that is, the policy of publishing despatches in which the local advisers of a Minister set forth their own views and opinions by way of assisting the Minister to form his judgment. I have little doubt that there are many cases where such a course might be convenient, but this particular case is one where it must be objectionable, and, I think, highly dangerous. I am not speaking of the negotiations between this country and the Boers; that is totally different to the matter of which I am now speaking. I am referring to the confidential difference of opinion between a Minister and his advisers. That is quite different to the information which the House is so eager to get. Knowing all that passes, the responsibility of the Colonial Secretary in a matter like this is something more than the average responsibility which Ministers are so fond of referring to. He is the actual person and the only person responsible for these negotiations, and the only person who ought to receive praise or blame, according to the view taken of them. It is for him to answer, and I submit that he has no right—that a Minister has no right—to bring his confidential advisers within the range of parliamentary criticism at all. It is for him to deal with them and for Parliament to deal with him. But it is not only from the point of view of Ministerial responsibility that I invite attention to this matter; there are other points. It is impolitic to show to our enemies that there are differences of opinion between the Colonial Secretary and his advisers with regard to the terms of peace, especially when those terms had been rejected, and it is highly inexpedient that when this matter comes up again our enemies should be able to speculate on the disposition of this or that adviser in their favour with respect to the terms. Whatever terms we present to them should carry with them the weight of absolutely undivided counsel. Now, I do not think that the terms we shall hereafter present to them will carry the weight of undivided counsels, but there are other objections more grave than that. My hon. friend has pointed out the difference between the terms suggested by Lord Kitchener and those suggested by Sir A. Milner. Lord Kitchener did not lay the same stress on political difficulties that Sir A. Milner felt. Sir Alfred Milner felt it his duty to point out that the Cape rebels in the Transvaal ought not to be treated better than the Cape rebels in the Cape; that was certainly a very reasonable suggestion, but was it right that Sir A. Milner's advice should be disclosed so that he has put upon him the opprobrium, such as it is, of attempting to exact worse terms than were suggested by the military authorities? That cannot fail to work against him in his ministerial authority. Was it wise to hold out to the Boers the fact that it is the military authority who is most eager to give them the best terms? Will not their suggestion be that it is not the Minister in England, or even his local adviser in South Africa, but the military authorities, who, recognising the difficulties of the campaign, are most anxious to offer the best terms? I am surprised that the Government should utter such things in the House.

Now I come to the terms themselves, and I frankly admit not only that the terms are generous, but that the alterations and additions made in the terms add to their clearness and precision and to their freedom from minute controversy afterwards, and on the whole they are sound and substantial improvements on the terms suggested. With regard to the alterations, I cannot understand them coming into controversy at all. The stipulation made by the Colonial Secretary that these terms should be made conditional on the cessation of hostilities was reasonable enough, because it would not do to bring back 18,000 or 20,000 men and still find yourself fighting a hostile community; that, in my opinion, was a most reasonable stipulation. My hon. friend, by way of emphasising his objection to these terms, laid great stress on the substitution of the word "loan" for the word "gift," and I should have been disposed to agree with him if I had thought that the alteration of those words had caused the rejection of peace. It was the terms as a whole that were rejected. If Botha, instead of rejecting the terms, had said that the terms were acceptable so far, but that he would rather have the word "gift" inserted instead of "loan," I do not think anybody would have stood in the way. That alteration was not of such a degree of importance as to induce us to suppose that it caused the rejection of the terms. The principal point connected with these proposals and their rejection is the introduction of the representative element. The introduction of representative government in the Transvaal seems to have produced a good deal of confusion of thought among many persons. Some have suggested that representative government in its fullest sense ought to be conferred upon the Boers immediately after the cessation of hostilities. I do not know whether that view is put forward by anyone now. [SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, it is.] Then it appears that there are still some persons who hold the extraordinary view that representative government should be conferred upon this half-depopulated country immediately on the cessation of the war, and there are certainly some other Members who go extremely near it. The substitute for it is that the country should have representative government on the restoration of order. Well, that is a more elastic formula, and I do not know whether I could not get my own suggestion under cover of it if stretched far enough. It is not by any means a safe formula. Surely hon. Members, on reflection, will see that in the interest of peace there must be a resettlement of the country before you can have anything like a fair system of representative government. The thousands of legal inhabitants of the Transvaal, who have been expelled because they are of British race, must be resettled in the country before you can give representative government to the Boers. It is not enough to talk of the cessation of hostilities. It is not enough to talk of the restoration of order. The fact is that those who desire representative government without the resettlement of the country ignore the fact which, I think, has been at the root of their mistaken attitude throughout this controversy. They ignore the fact that, although the Boers conquered the Transvaal, their conquest was not complete. It was subject to the right of people of British race to settle, and live and labour in that country. The British Empire had a proprietary right in the Transvaal at all times under the Convention. The Briton was in the Transvaal by the same right as the Boer, and now the Boer has expelled him, although his race represented a large proportion—some people say a majority—of the population. Are you going to confer representative government before he has returned? [AN HON. MEMBER: "Nobody wants it."] I am very glad to hear that, because some people have wanted it. I cannot help observing from my own experience of this controversy that very often, because some little fault is found with England, it is always held to absolve the Boer. I think we should look at both sides of the question, and I hold it to be an unreasonable demand, the Boer having expelled so great a proportion of the population, that he should expect or desire anything like full representative government until there has been a reasonable settlement of the country. Personally I should prefer that the Government should make an estimate—by no means an impossible thing to do—of the time in which that resettlement may reasonably be expected, and having fixed that period, then by declaration in this House —although I would not make it part of the terms of peace—announce the intention of His Majesty's Government to give full representative government at that period, if in their discretion they may think it right, provided, of course, that hostilities shall have ceased, and that the country shall have resumed its normal industrial conditions. It should be open to them, if that condition is not fulfilled, to extend the period, and equally open to them to curtail the period if they thought it advisable to do so. The fixing of a certain period would be a guide to them, and an aid to any Government holding power in England at the time. I dare say it will be said that that is practically what the Government are doing now, and that it is the discretion they have under the existing terms of peace. That is quite true, but nobody can predict what the temper of the Government a few years hence may be, but I hope the people of this country will see to it that representative government is not delayed.

I have dwelt thus long upon the question of full representative government because the same reasons apply to, and have a direct bearing upon, the agreement in regard to the Advisory Council. No doubt an advisory council looks very tempting, but again you have to remember that your elective Advisory Council would represent only a small portion of the population. It would have this disadvantage. The Boers would, of course, first of all return to the country and be in a great majority, and this would be a source of possible danger and disturbance. We know perfectly well what would happen if their representative government were so full as to give them full legislative powers. We should undoubtedly have a repetition of the franchise and registration difficulties which we have already dealt with. Such a thing would be practically unconditional surrender to the Boers. An Advisory Council, while it would not have so great an evil effect as that, would, nevertheless, have an evil effect. If they sought to take advantage of their position by suggestions unfair to the still more or less absentee Uitlander population, they would be overruled by the executive authority. It is better to fix a provisional period, to let that provisional period be frankly stated, and not pretend it is anything else; and then, as soon as possible, to introduce the representative government which is shared by every white race under the British flag. We cannot carry on our Imperial system as a great empire except upon the basis of local self-government. From their experience of the Cape Government the Boers know as well as we do that an essential part of our Imperial system is representative government in some form or other, and that, generally according to the distance from England, some extremely ample form is always granted, and the more they appreciate that fact the less difficulty we will have. I express satisfaction that His Majesty's Government are desirous of meeting the Boers on terms so fair.

There is, in my opinion, no reason to complain of the way in which they have treated the Boers or loyalists in regard to these negotiations.

MR. ELLIOT (Durham): I wish to say a few words on the general position in which we find ourselves—that is, on the precise terms proposed in the negotiations. We talk, and we have a right to talk, of being generous in this matter. After all, generosity is the best policy for ourselves. I don't know that we can spend too much time in praising ourselves. After a sanguinary tussle with a brave enemy we are still able to go into negotiations with moderate minds, with just intentions, with a desire, having regard to our own interests, to deal fairly and generously if we can with our enemy. There is talk about representative institutions and so forth, as to the when, the where, and the how, they shall be introduced; but, after all, the main thing which lies at the bottom of all is this, that neither in one way nor another shall we be able to make peace and quiet in South Africa until there is some sort of drawing together between the two races. (Opposition cheers.) Hon. Gentlemen cheer, and will not go any further. If by advancing further we shall be repaid a hundredfold in the good temper with which we are met, then it is foolish to say, in a spirit of defiance, that nothing will induce us to advance beyond these terms. It is a consolation, I should imagine, to every one that, notwithstanding the figure which the warlike operations have cost the country, General Botha and Lord Kitchener can come together. They seem, as far as we can judge from the only account that has come before us, to have been able to talk together almost like good friends in regard to the common object they have in view. Surely if these men, who have been doing their best to take each other's lives by their forces, are able to meet in that way, it is not for us at home to take another course? We will be generous, if you will, in order that we may pull together the two races in South Africa. I wish to say one word upon a rather delicate subject—the subject of Sir Alfred Milner. I am perfectly certain, from my personal acquaintance and friendship with him, that he has been actuated throughout by the highest principles and the desire to serve the truest and best interests of his country. It would be absurd to recall Sir Alfred Milner. We must look at both sides—the British on the one side and the Africander section on the other—and do our best to steer a medium course, because in that course alone all safety lies. Sir Alfred Milner has undergone great trials since he went out to South Africa. Does any man really suppose in his heart that as time goes on Sir Alfred Milner will be the best able to pull together the two jarring races? I doubt it. I think the time will come—and the Government must know it as well as other people—for everything to settle down, whatever may be the rights and wrongs of the question. When the time comes for everything to settle down it is inevitable that things will be laid to his charge, and he will be in a position, no matter how great his abilities or how good his intentions, where he will not be able to do full justice to a difficult situation. [Cries of "No."] I do not say one word against Sir Alfred Milner, but I venture to say that these are words of common sense. People may remember, after all, that the man who has been responsible for conquest will not be the best man to elicit the loyal feelings and the fraternal sentiments, if I may say so, of those who are opposed to him. These are disagreeable words for an Englishman to have to use. We have not been accustomed, and I hope it will be a long time in future before the English House of Commons has to contemplate it, to the making of British subjects against their will. It is a disagreeable task we have undertaken. Since the war began I have felt this, and I have stated it again and again. Since the war began it became, in my judgment, our absolute duty to conquer these two Republics. I do not wish to go back on the old story on this occasion. We have before tried the system of independent Republics, and it broke down in disaster and disgrace. If we had set up the Republics again their functions would have been differently interpreted by the two sides. The Republics would have claimed all the rights of independence in the neighbourhood of a British colony where a large portion of the population are in close relationship to the people of the Republics. I think it would not have been a wise or politic thing. I think the war put an end to that state of things, and we have to find a solution in another way. I must say that, when we talk of the generous terms we are offering, we should try to look a little to the other side of the question. We are offering to pay debts, to pay sums to those who have been spending money against us. We have been offering to build the farms of those who have recently been engaged in the war. But what are we getting from General Botha? He is giving away what is of supreme importance—he is giving up the cause for which throughout a year and a half he has fought with great courage and vigour. I say, beyond all dispute, he is giving up that cause for which thousands of his friends and relations have sacrificed their lives. If he gives in he has to sacrifice all that. I say he is bound to do it for his own well-being, and he will best consult, no doubt, the interests of his country if he does so give way, but do not let us say as Englishmen that he is not called upon to make a gigantic sacrifice. He is as brave a man as any in the world. Let us do what we can to make things easy for those against whom we fought. When we see the Government taking the line they are taking now—a moderate medium course between the two extremes—let us strengthen them in the task, which I am perfectly certain they will find one of extreme difficulty. My right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary, speaking last December, said he looked forward to an early conclusion of the war. I saw the comment two or three days afterwards, "What was the use of being generous to people who did not understand it—that sort of thing would be done again." We have to be fair to all parties. We have to remember our own loyalists who have fought so well. We have to remember the great objects before us, and look them fairly in the face. What can be the future of South Africa? Are we to succeed in pouring in a British population which will ultimately by its numbers reduce to insignificance the minority of Dutchmen? That, so far as I can see, is impossible. What is it that causes distant countries to fill up with Englishmen? A country that abounds with cheap labour is not the country to which Englishmen will flock. They will go in twos and threes to the extent of a few hundreds to make fortunes by speculating at Johannesburg, but they will not go in the only way in which great masses of the population can ever be got into a new country. They will not go to take the place of labourers. I hope what can be done will be done to induce Englishmen to go out and take farms in South Africa, but I do not expect much of that kind of thing to occur. Look the thing fairly and squarely in the face. If we cannot change the character of the country districts of South Africa from Dutch districts into British districts, what have we to do? There is only one thing to be done, and only one possibility by which South Africa can be retained in the Empire, and that is by gradually enabling a good spirit to grow up between the Dutch and the English. They will come together, and I hope we shall have the Government of Cape Colony largely composed of Dutchmen. Personally, I find it difficult to improve the policy of the Government as sketched out by the Colonial Secretary last December. The differences between Downing Street and Sir Alfred Milner and Lord Kitchener are very small. The way in which the Government are now acting deserves the support of Members on both sides of the House.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I entirely agree with my hon. friend who has just sat down in the view that this debate affords a proper opportunity for reviewing the general position in which we now stand, and I agree also with the desire that we should endeavour to recall to the House the brighter aspects of the question, and to induce it to look at the matter with that dispassionate temper which is so eminently absent from some quarters, especially in South Africa, and which is so extremely necessary at the present moment. We are all agreed that the Government took an onward step when they allowed the peace negotiations to be entered into and I think it is important to observe that not only Lord Kitchener but Sir Alfred Milner was persuaded that General Botha meant business. They thought General Botha was sincere in his wish for peace, and if you read Sir Alfred Milner's telegram you will see that Lord Kitchener was anxious to put the terms in the best way. He also thought there was a reasonable chance of peace being arranged. He thought the thing was within our grasp. Sir Alfred Milner was hopeful and Lord Kitchener was hopeful, and, therefore, I trust the House will bear that in mind, because it is our justification in asking the House to look carefully at the difference between the terms Lord Kitchener stated in his interview and the terms which ultimately went to General Botha. There may have been many causes and forces at work which we do not know, which are not disclosed in these Papers, and which made the negotiations to be broken off; but we have to go on the basis of these Papers. General Botha and Lord Kitchener parted in the belief that peace was probable. A letter was received a few days afterwards in which General Botha says:—"You will not be surprised to hear that my answer is in the negative." What are the reasons for the use of the words "You will not be surprised"? One of two things must have happened—either Lord Kitchener heard from General Botha a great deal that we have not heard of, or else General Botha was so much struck by the difference between the terms Lord Kitchener had discussed and the terms received in the letter that he conceived a distrust of us altogether, and believed that the Government at home would not implement what Lord Kitchener had offered.

I do not think we should look upon this as a question of generosity at all. I wish that the term generosity had been left out of the discussion. We shall never agree as to what is generous to the enemy, but what we may all agree upon is—What is business? I wish to look at the matter entirely from the point of view of what is best for us to offer in order to get peace. I am sure that that is the point of view in which Lord Kitchener approached it. No one accuses Lord Kitchener of being a soft or sentimental man. He thought it was for the interest of this country that the war should come to an end now, and that it should come to an end on the terms he offered, and which I have no doubt he believed would receive the support of the Government.

I want to trouble the House to go through these ten items. I think the Government were entitled to ask that the oath of allegiance should be taken, that they were entitled to insist upon the provision that all hostilities must cease if the terms took effect, and that they could not be answerable for the precise time when they would bring back the exiles. But there are three points in which there are substantial differences between the terms Lord Kitchener offered and the terms in the final letter. Lord Kitchener and General Botha appear to have come to an agreement upon that subject. The words Lord Kitchener reports are—

> "Amnesty to all at end of war. We spoke of colonials who joined Republics, and he seemed not adverse to their being disfranchised."

There is no objection on Botha's part to the disfranchisement of the Cape rebels, and Lord Kitchener does not convey any suggestion whatever of anything except disfranchisement. Therefore General Botha goes back to his own people, having a right to believe, so far as Lord Kitchener's inclinations went, that the Cape rebels would be entitled to go home, subject to the penalty of disfranchisement and nothing more. I cannot agree with the hon. Member for Linlithgow in looking upon that as an unimportant factor. With a military force such as that to which Botha submitted the proposals, there is nothing to which more importance would be attached than the treatment of their brothers in arms. It is a point of honour with a soldier that his fellow-soldiers are well treated. I can therefore conceive nothing more likely to turn back their pacific desires than the fact that instead of the Cape rebels having nothing but disfranchisement to fear they would be subjected to the penalties of the Cape law of treason when they returned to the colony. [Ministerial cheers.] I am not arguing whether it is right or wrong. Hon. Members do not seem to appreciate the point of the argument at all. The question is what the

Boers would think. It was a most natural thing that they should be struck by the contrast between the terms Lord Kitchener appeared to offer and the terms contained in the letter, and it was just a point with regard to which men feeling for their comrades would be inclined to stand out. Of course we shall be told that you would displease the loyalists at the Cape if you did not exact all the penalties for treason. I hope that we shall never in this House consider it any part of our business to satisfy the vindictive feelings of people at the Cape. All legitimate feelings on their part are entitled to consideration, but feelings of revenge are not. Such feelings are illegitimate, and are the very worst counsellors you can have. The so-called loyalists at the Cape—— [Cries of "So-called!" "Oh, oh!" and "Withdraw."]

[The right hon. Gentleman essayed to continue his remarks, but was prevented by renewed cries of "Withdraw."]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! If the right hon. Gentleman had exceeded the limits of Parliamentary debate I should have called him to order.

MR. BRYCE: I am going to tell hon. Members why I use that expression. There are a great many people at the Cape—Dutchmen very largely as well as Englishmen — who are entirely, thoroughly, and heartily loyal to the British Crown, but who are not the faction that I describe as the "so-called loyalists." That name is given by the persons who telegraph and write home, purporting to represent them, to the extreme faction at the Cape who arrogate to themselves exclusively the name of "loyalists," but who are not a bit more loyal than a large number who do not share these vindictive feelings, but have a far better sense of the real gravity of the position and of the remedies which ought to be applied. There is a faction—I hope it is only a small faction—which is not thinking of ending the war or of the welfare of the colonies, but which simply wishes, in the words of the Old Testament, "to see its desire upon its enemies," to see severely vindictive punishment inflicted upon Cape rebels of every kind. I again repeat that we ought not to be guided by those vindictive feelings; they are dangerous to the future of the Cape; they are the worst possible advisers at a crisis of this kind, and I earnestly hope that no appeal to the feelings of that faction will be made to dissuade us from what should appear to be the interests of Cape Colony in the way of terms. If you look at the experience of history you will find that the policy of amnesty has generally been the best policy, that the violent men who have desired to indulge their own feelings of vengeance have been very bad counsellors, and that when they have been overruled peace and loyalty have been more quickly restored. In Canada, after the rebellion of 1840, some of the men who had been rebels were within two years not only loyal subjects, but Ministers of the Crown. Many of us remember the outcry which arose at first in the United States at the end of the Civil War for severe punishment upon the leading rebels. The people of the North had the good sense to resist those vindictive passions. There never was a war after which so few punishments were inflicted, or a case in which the policy of leniency was so conspicuously successful; and if the South is now, and has been for many years, as loyal a member of the American Republic as any part of the North, it is very largely because the passion of vengeance was repressed and a practical amnesty given.

I come now to the second point upon which there was a difference between Lord Kitchener's proposals and those which were conveyed by letter, namely, the question of aid to the farmers. That change was, as Sir Alfred Milner thought, a very important one, because it was not only a change calculated to arouse the suspicions of the Boers, but one which seemed to imply that help would be given in a very different spirit from that of a free gift. Whatever other question may arise with regard to the settlement of peace, surely the question of a small amount of money ought not to be allowed to destroy the good effect of the offer of terms. This war is costing us from £1,250,000 to £1,500,000 a week, and if we were able to shorten the war by a month it would be good policy to give not one but two millions to help the farmers to resume their position in the land. Even beyond that, when we are endeavouring to govern these countries after peace has been restored it will surely be to your advantage to have a population with some hope, with some measure of prosperity, with something to lose, with what we call a stake in the country, rather than have an impoverished, half-starving, and miserable population, driven by its misery into discontent. Therefore any money which is given so as to be well applied to re-establish the people on the land, and to give them a chance of restoring prosperity to these devastated countries, will be money well invested for the future of the country and for our own security as governing that country.

Then, lastly, there is the discrepancy between the terms offered at the interview and the terms offered in the letter with regard to the future government of the country. At the interview Lord Kitchener suggested—

> "that when hostilities ceased there should be Crown Colony administration, consisting of nominated executive, with elected Assembly to advise administration, to be followed after a period by representative government. He would have liked representative government at once, but seemed satisfied with above."

I think it is not going too far to say that that is the most hopeful statement we have had. I should like myself, though we know that Lord Kitchener was forbidden to discuss the question, to know what proposal General Botha made with regard to modified independence. I have often said, and I say still, that it is quite possible it may turn out in the long run that some kind of modified independence, protection, will be a great deal easier for this country to work than a system of Crown Colony government. ["Oh, oh!"]. I may have some opportunity in years to come to ask hon. Members who say, "Oh, oh!" when they see what are the difficulties of other kinds of colonial government, whether they might not have preferred the modified independence. Lord Kitchener's proposal of an elected Assembly was a very important one. An elected Assembly to the Boers would mean what they call a Volksraad, a continuation to some extent of their old free constitution, an opportunity of meeting, of electing people, of expressing their views, and of bringing their collective opinion to bear upon the Executive Government. The hon. Member for South Shields seemed to suppose that an Assembly of that kind would have no value. My hon. friend must have read history to little purpose if he thinks that such an Assembly, which furnishes a most valuable safety-valve for the expression of opinion, may not be a most valuable element in the government of a country. I rejoice to-day that Lord Kitchener should have found General Botha willing to see the value of such an institution, and to express himself satisfied with the proposal. When the final letter came that proposal was entirely changed. Instead of it we have only the suggestion that there should be Crown Colony government, consisting of a certain number of official Members, to whom a nominated unofficial element would be added. Strangely enough, Lord Kitchener does not appear to have adopted the suggestion from home of a nominated Legislative Council. I do not know that that made any difference, because clearly a nominated Legislative Council would be no satisfaction to the Boers, and I do not suppose that it had anything to do with their disappointment with the proposals they received. But I think the contrast between the elected Assembly which Lord Kitchener offered and the purely arbitrary and despotic system which the final letter conveyed must at once have struck the Boers as indicating the difference between the views the military man on the spot entertained and the proposals they had to expect from the Government at home. As we are obliged to seek in these discrepancies an explanation of the change in General Botha's attitude, I think we must attach great weight to the particular variation between these two proposals. Of course there are objections to the immediate granting of self-government. There are objections to every course you can suggest. In the position to which South Africa has been reduced there is no course for the government of these Colonies to which grievous objection cannot be urged. What you have to do is to select the course open to the fewest objections and promising the fewest evils. I believe that the course of Crown Colony government, likely to be continued for a length of time, is of all the courses which have been suggested the very worst. It is said that what we are asking is the immediate and full granting of representative and responsible government. We have never suggested that. We have admitted that, when the war comes to an end, you must necessarily have an intermediate period of provisional administration, whether military or civil. But there is all the difference between maintaining for a short time a provisional administration, and creating the whole apparatus of Crown Colony government, associated in the minds of the Boers with the days of Sir Owen Lanyon, and with the arbitrary government which prevails in our Crown colonies. ["Oh, oh!"] Of course, it is arbitrary government. Perhaps hon. Gentlemen do not know what Crown Colony government is. It can be nothing else but arbitrary government. It cannot be said that the existence of nominated councils prevents the government being arbitrary, because the nominated members are bound to vote as they are directed by the Governor.

I have only one word more to say about the causes of refusal. Those causes are very obscure. I cannot help thinking that Lord Kitchener might be able if he was asked to throw some light upon that remarkable expression in General Botha's letter—

> "But, after the mutual exchange of views at our interview at Middelburg on 28th February last, it will certainly not surprise your Excellency to know that I do not feel disposed to recommend that the terms of the said letter should have the earnest consideration of my Government."

It has been said that the fact that the Boers make no counter proposals shows that they are in a perfectly obstinate frame of mind. That may or may not be so, but at any rate it is clear that it would be extremely difficult for the men assembled at Middelburg under General Botha to have formulated any terms, and therefore I do not take so hopeless a view of their refusal to formulate counter proposals as might otherwise have been the case. If there had been a regular Government expressing itself through its Foreign Office you might have expected counter proposals, but where you have this large mixed group of people it is quite clear that it would be difficult or impossible to formulate such counter proposals. Therefore, I do not think we ought to despair of the future acceptance of terms merely because no counter proposals were made on this occasion. As to the causes of refusal, I think possibly Lord Kitchener could throw some light, but I do not think we here can. The Colonial Secretary told us, to my great surprise, on Saturday that, according to Lord Kitchener's private telegram, General Botha objected to Sir Alfred Milner. That was a most extraordinary statement, and it was made, in the first place, without producing the telegram. It gave us a very partial view of General Botha's mind. There may be others to whom General Botha objects just as much, but in this obscurity and complete uncertainty as to the causes which are acting on General Botha's mind I do not feel inclined to discuss his objection to Sir Alfred Milner. I do not think we have any occasion to bring Sir Alfred Milner into this discussion at all, and I should not be led into doing so either by personal statements of the Colonial Secretary or by the indiscreet phrase which is attributed to him in certain quarters. We have to deal with the Government; they are responsible for the conduct of these negotiations and the future of the country under some government or another.

While I regret the failure of the recent negotiations, I earnestly hope the Government will resume communications when there is a chance of doing so, and whenever a fresh proposal comes from the Boers for negotiation. ["Hear, hear!"] Yes, but not only then, but when this country has gained another clear military advantage I think it will be to our own interests to propose that negotiations should be resumed. ["Oh, oh!"] Hon. Members seem to be under a strange delusion as to what our interests are. This is not a case in which whatever is given to the enemy is taken from ourselves. People seem to argue as if it was our interest to impose and exact a severe charge, as if every concession we made was so much taken from ourselves. ["No."] Well, a great deal of language has been used which seemed to imply that, and to suppose that the more severe the terms, the more they are to our advantage. That is not the case at all. On the contrary, I believe it is to our interest to offer liberal terms and to get rid of this war. Do hon. Members realise what the state of these countries is? Do they realise the total devastation which prevails and which has reduced the two republics and parts of Cape Colony to a wilderness? Do they realise the total destruction of stock and farm buildings, the impoverishment of the people, the stoppage of all cultivation, the very serious risk of famine, and the possibility that before long we should have to feed a large starving population? In this state of things it is to our utmost possible interest that we should abridge the war if we can in any way do so, and do it upon terms which will make the fusion of the races easier. It is said that these are liberal terms to offer to the conquered. Who are the conquered? They are the people we desire to make good British subjects, whom we desire to be loyal, against whom we do not wish to be obliged to keep an enormous garrison at an enormous expense, and to whom even the Government express themselves as desirous of restoring free government at the earliest possible moment. If you want to make them loyal and contented subjects, the more liberal the terms the better it will be and the sooner that consummation will be realised. I therefore repeat once more that it ought to be our object, as it is our interest, to give the widest terms we can, and to settle this unhappy business on the basis, not of surrender, but of terms acceptable to the other side. I believe there are many on the Boer side who are animated by just the same vindictive feelings as those which prevail among a small section in Cape Colony; they do not desire that there should be a settlement, because they want to be crushed, and they are afraid a section of their own fellow-countrymen will accept terms and endeavour to work them fairly and to become good British subjects. It should be our object to defeat that extreme section, to offer terms which will be acceptable, and bring about a settlement on the basis that a valiant enemy has been respected and an appeal made to the good feelings of these people to work out the terms upon which they have consented to come in and surrender, and to endeavour to let bygones be bygones, and to effect that fusion of the races upon which alone the prosperity and welfare of South Africa depend.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: We have listened to a very interesting debate, interesting not merely because of the light thrown on the subject with which we are principally concerned, but also because of the light indirectly thrown upon the so-called unity of the Liberal party. We have had three speeches from hon. and right hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House. In the first place, we had a speech from the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Linlithgow, a speech upon the moderation of which I cannot say too much, a speech of which I have certainly no right to complain since, although he indulged in some general criticisms, the hon. and learned Gentleman approved, on the whole, of the Government policy. His idea seemed to be that we had done well, and he encouraged us to continue in our well-doing. It is true that the hon. and learned Member did discover out of the ten points discussed by Lord Kitchener and General Botha three upon which we had not been so liberal as he thought we might have been, and upon that difference he ranged himself on the side of the local administrators. Then he was followed by the hon. and learned Member for South Shields, and if I am grateful to the hon. and learned Member for Linlithgow for his recognition of the services of the Government, their moderation and magnanimity, still more am I gratified, and I may say flattered, by the compliments of the hon. and learned Member for South Shields. He could find nothing to criticise in the ten proposals, and found that in the differences between ourselves and Lord Kitchener we were strongly justified in the attitude we adopted. But then came the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen. [Cries of "No, Durham."] No; I am referring to the agreement to be found in speeches coming from the other side. I have nothing to say at present of the speech of my hon. friend the Member for Durham.

The third speech from the other side came from the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, and he approached the question from a totally different point of view from that of the two hon. Gentlemen on his own side in his united party who preceded him. The right hon. Gentleman is still in favour of what he has called a modified independence, though I have never known exactly what he meant, but I suppose he means that debased form of independence to which the hon. and learned Member for Linlithgow referred as a stone for the Boers to break their own heads with. Then the right hon. Gentleman went on to say that Crown Colony government is the worst of all possible solutions. I do not know whether he attaches importance to the word "solution." If the hon. Gentleman means that Crown Colony government is not a permanent solution, it is only what we have said scores of times. I understand him to say that it is the worst possible device that could be adopted at the present time. If he takes that view, his two hon. friends take an exactly contrary view, because they support the proposals of the Government, which constitute one form of Crown Colony government. Then the right hon. Gentleman is of opinion that the negotiations which have been twice initiated, and have twice failed, should be resumed by the Government at the first possible opportunity. But that is not our intention. I only notice for the moment those differences between the hon. Member and his hon. friends, and I shall proceed to deal with the other details afterwards.

In the first place let me say something about the form in which these Papers have been produced. The right hon. Gentleman said that on Saturday last I made a surprising statement, and the hon. Gentleman behind him said we were introducing a precedent, to which he took exception, of allowing the expression of the views of our agents abroad to be introduced into parliamentary controversy. That rests upon two facts—in the first instance upon an answer I gave to a question on Saturday, and in the second place upon the terms of the despatches which are printed in the Paper presented. Now, take the last first. Does any hon. Gentleman on the other side suggest that we should have left out everything which expressed an opinion on the part either of Lord Kitchener or Sir Alfred Milner? If so there would be nothing to produce but the fact that Mrs. Botha had, at her husband's request, gone to see him, that Lord Kitchener allowed her to go, and the next thing would have been the letter that Lord Kitchener was instructed to present to General Botha and the General's reply. Lord Kitchener's account of the interview with General Botha could not have been produced at all if we kept out all opinions on the part of Lord Kitchener. I do not agree with that doctrine at all. I do not think anyone would honestly believe that I am the man to shrink from any responsibility properly my due, and I make myself answerable for everything that is under my control, and for everyone as long as they remain in office. But, although that is the case, I had no idea whatever of throwing upon them responsibility even for their own actions when I have subsequently approved of them. I think the House and the country have a perfect right, when we are dealing with such authorities as Lord Kitchener and Sir Alfred Milner, to know anything that can be produced, without injury to the public interest, about their opinions. That is my answer.

With regard to the Papers as they stand, I say we have not produced this information in order to shift our responsibility in the slightest, but we have produced it in order to give the fullest information in our power to the House. Suppose we had kept this information back. Suppose we had taken this belated advice and left this information out. What would have been the language of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite? We should have been accused of attempting to mislead the people and keep them in the dark. When the other day I simply refused to present a Report which I had not seen myself, and in regard to which further inquiries were being made from Sir Alfred Milner, because its production would have been contrary to the public interest and would have damaged the policy it recommended, for three hours or more we were kept debating the scandalous conduct of the Colonial Secretary, who was accused of having some ulterior, wicked, and unavowable motive for keeping back that Report. So much for the form of Papers.

Now I come to the statement I made on Saturday in answer to a question. I was asked by the hon. Member for Rushcliffe whether the Government had any other information besides what was contained in the Papers as to the attitude of General Botha. I was obliged to answer in the affirmative and say, "Yes." Suppose I had had other information bearing on the attitude of General Botha and had refused to produce it, a week's discussion would not have been enough to exhaust the indignation of gentlemen opposite. Of course they would have suspected that the particular thing I kept back I kept back because it would have been dangerous to myself or the interests of the Government to produce it. The answer to the hon. Member for Rushcliffe was that General Botha had taken strong objection to Sir Alfred Milner's appointment as Governor of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. I do not suppose he has any personal objection to Sir Alfred Milner. He also objects to him in the capacity to which he has been appointed.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): When was the objection taken?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: At the interview which we published telegrams from Lord Kitchener describing. But I was obliged to confess, in answer to the hon. Member for Rushcliffe, that there was a private telegram which accompanied it, in which this additional information was given. I attach no importance to the statement at all, because I have no reason to believe that Sir Alfred Milner's appointment had any effect on the mind of General Botha in regard to these terms. For my own part I do not think he would allow a personal question of that kind to interfere with his acceptance of the terms.

Let me deal with the differences which it is said exist between the terms which Lord Kitchener appears to have discussed and the terms originally offered to the Boers. The right hon. Member for South Aberdeen, at the beginning of his speech, said this was a matter of business, and what he wanted the House to consider was how to get peace. I do not want to press this too far. But that is not the business of the House, and it is not the business upon which we are engaged. The business of the House is to get a peace which will be both honourable and lasting. This distinction is important. If you attach supreme importance to peace by itself, of course you may be prepared to make concessions which would be quite wrong if you want the peace to be lasting and honourable. The right hon. Member for South Aberdeen referred to what he called the refusal to grant amnesty to rebels. What is the position? In the first place, who are these rebels? Who are these gentlemen for whom the right hon. Gentleman is willing to make such exceptional terms? They are, in the first place, those who had absolutely no grievance themselves—who have never pretended that they had any. They were subjects of Queen Victoria in a colony in which they and their compatriots ruled the roost, and had political predominance on the condition of extending equal civil rights to their British and other fellow-subjects. They had absolutely nothing to complain of themselves. It is said that they had a natural sentiment in favour of men of their own blood across the border. That may be, but that does not justify them in going into rebellion. If you like to find a sort of moral excuse for their action, that is all right, and well and good; but you cannot find a legal or a just and proper answer to the position of those who say that men who commit that offence must be punished in the interests of the rest of the community. You cannot afford to say once more that it pays better to be a rebel than a loyalist. The conduct of rebels in Cape Colony was, as a rule, worse than the conduct of the Boers; their treatment of their neighbours, their property, and persons was worse, speaking generally, than the treatment of the same people and things by the Boers themselves. And yet, Sir, according to the right hon. Gentleman, we ought to send them back, we ought to force them upon the colonies—because it is the colonies who have to deal with this matter—we ought to use our influence to impress upon the colonies the desirability and importance of sending these men back to the very places where there still remain the farms which they have burnt, the property which they have destroyed, and the people whom they have injured—we are to send them back there, without even putting them on their trial.

MR. BRYCE: Perhaps I may be permitted to observe that all I said was that I was content with what was suggested by Lord Kitchener. Those were Lord Kitchener's terms.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot tell what Lord Kitchener had in his mind when he spoke of this "amnesty" in discussing the matter with General Botha. But Sir Alfred Milner, who knows a great deal more about the local political conditions, necessarily, by virtue of his position and his long residence in the country, was from the first opposed to it, and we were opposed to it. I cannot conceive anything more mischievous than this proposal, by whomsoever it was made—by Lord Kitchener, by Sir Alfred Milner, or by the right hon. Gentleman opposite—I say I cannot conceive anything more mischievous, more likely to lead to trouble in the future, than to lay down here, or in South Africa, that rebellion of the particular kind which we have under our consideration should go absolutely unscathed. The right hon. Gentleman said again and again, "Lord Kitchener's terms," "the terms that Lord Kitchener recommended." Where does he get that? He does not get it from these Papers. It is not in these Papers. It is not true to say, as the right hon. Gentleman has mistakenly said, that Lord Kitchener recommended an amnesty. He did not do anything of the kind. What he says in this Paper is this. General Botha asked him about an amnesty to all at the end of the war—

> "We spoke of colonials who joined the Republics, and he seemed not adverse to their being disfranchised."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): That is in his letter.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes. In accordance with that conversation which he had with General Botha he, in a private letter which he sent us, says:—

> "His Majesty's Government is prepared at once to grant an amnesty in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony for all *bona fide* acts of war committed during the recent hostilities; as well as to move the Governments of Cape Colony and Natal to take similar action, but qualified by the disfranchisement of any British subjects implicated in the recent war."

I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman will perceive the distinction, but that is not a recommendation—it is a suggestion, if you like, but it is not a recommendation. [Opposition laughte It is a suggestion, but it is not a recommendation; and if hon. Gentlemen cannot see the difference between these two words I must recommend them to look at one of the dictionaries which I have seen advertised. But if the right hon. Gentleman will look at the account of the interview he will find what Lord Kitchener was doing. He was not, of course, prepared beforehand, but what he was doing in that conversation was stating on his own personal authority what he fancied the Government at home were willing to do. It was not what he recommended; it was what he understood. For instance, take the first one. He says—

> "The nature of future government of the colonies asked about. He wanted more details than were given by Colonial Secretary, and I said that, subject to correction from home, I understood that when hostilities ceased military guard would be replaced by Crown Colony administration;"

and so on. And, therefore, I want to point out to hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite that I think they are altogether exaggerating any difference that exists between either Lord Kitchener or Sir Alfred Milner and ourselves. It is one thing for Lord Kitchener to say, "I understood so and so as being your views"; it is another thing to say that he differed from our views when he understood them in their fulness.

Let us see what these differences are. I have spoken about the question of amnesty to rebels; now I come to aid to farmers. What is the situation there? All that General Botha asked for was "assistance to farmers." All that we did was to define that "assistance." There was nothing to show in the question of General Botha that he meant that assistance to be by gift. But it was quite possible that he did mean that, and it became of importance, therefore, that we—unless we intended it should be by gift—should make it clear that it was to be by loan. In making it clear that it was to be by loan we did not, of course, preclude the possibility of there being certain cases of hardship in which a free gift might be made. Those cases would have to be dealt with at the time upon their merits, and no doubt could with perfect safety be left in the hands of Sir Alfred Milner. But we did mean to say, as a principle, that we were not going to aid these men by free gift. What an extraordinary proposal to make! We are, by actual gifts of money, to put back these men, whom we have been fighting, in their old position so that they should not suffer in any way by the fact that they have declared war upon us and have invaded His Majesty's possessions. I do not call that magnanimity; I call that folly. It is all nonsense to make a proposal of that kind, and I should like to know how far the right hon. Gentleman proposes to go. I observed, as we have always observed in his speeches on this subject, that it is the Boers and the friends of the Boers in Cape Colony that he cares for. When he has to speak of the men who, to the extent now, I think, of something like 20,000, have risked their lives in His Majesty's service, when he has to speak of the men whose property has been seriously injured and, in some cases, destroyed, when he has to speak of the men who during the invasion of the Boers suffered every kind of insult and injury—then he calls them "these vindictive people, these so-called loyalists."

Mr. BRYCE: After I had expressly explained that I applied that term to a small faction of extremists, and said that I believed the large majority of the British and an enormous number of the Dutch were perfectly loyal, I did not expect that the right hon. Gentleman would again try to misrepresent me.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I leave that to the House, who heard the right hon. Gentleman; and I say again that in no speech that the right hon. Gentleman has ever delivered upon this subject, in this House or out of it, has he ever done anything like justice, has he ever behaved fairly, towards the "so-called loyalists." Now, Sir, in dealing with this question of aid to farmers, he spoke as if only the Boers who have been in arms against us had been injured in this war. What of the loyalists?

Mr. BRYCE: Certainly

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: What of the loyalists whose farms have been destroyed by the Boers? I am almost in doubt whether there are not quite as many farms that have been burnt by the Boers or more than there have been burnt by our troops. And what of the loyal British and the loyal Dutch who have been commandeered by the Boers, who have suffered in property or person? I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say that to them also he would make this gift.

Mr. BRYCE: The right hon. Gentleman does not seem to understand that I was discussing the terms of peace. The question as to what is to be done for the loyal Dutch does not arise on the terms of peace. Of course, I am entirely in favour of doing all we can for them; and my argument comes to that.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The right hon. Gentleman says the case of the loyalists does not arise on the terms of peace. I say it does. That is where we differ. If he would think of the loyalists when he is talking of peace we should not be found so far apart. I say that that is the whole cause of the difference between us.

Mr. BRYCE: The right hon. Gentleman does not seem to understand that the whole of my argument was directed to criticising the difference between Lord Kitchener's proposals at the interview and the letter that was sent to General Botha. It is *apropos* of that that all these questions arose.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I quite understand that; and the right hon. Gentleman would perhaps do better if he were to wait until I have concluded my argument. The difference was between "loan" and "gift." In objecting to "gift," I say you have not only to deal with the Boers whose property has been destroyed in the course of military operations by our soldiers or in other ways, but you have got to deal with loyalists whose property has been destroyed, and the right hon. Gentleman agrees to that. As I have pointed out—and I am perfectly justified in doing so—he never mentioned them in his speech. Now I go a step further. You have agreed to compensation by the Government to the loyalists who have suffered in regard to the burning of farms. What about the mines? Are you going to compensate the capitalists? [Opposition cries of "No."

MR. DILLON: They made the war.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No. I think the hon. Member opposite has always said that I made the war.

MR. DILLON: So I did, when the right hon. Gentleman agreed to obey Mr. Rhodes and the capitalists.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That is an observation which is clearly impertinent, and which is absolutely without the shadow of a shade of foundation. Now, the House will see, and perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will see, what is the difference between a loan and a gift. The mines do not come to us for a loan; they are not likely to require that sort of assistance. But if once you lay it down as a principle that all the injury done by a war to your enemies is to be compensated by gift after the war, you cannot refuse to compensate by gift your friends, and I should like to see the bill that the House would have to pay in that case. Now I hope the right hon. Gentleman understands my argument. I say, then, that we believe, after carefully thinking over the matter, that, while, of course, there is perfect room left to deal with exceptional cases that may arise, it would be most dangerous to lay down as a principle that in every case gift, and not loan, should be the method by which the farmers should be assisted. I have a grievance, not against the right hon. Gentleman, but against those who take quite a different view, and who think that in the offer to put aside £1,000,000 in order to pay the debts incurred by the Transvaal Government we went a great deal too far. I admit that we went to the very extreme; but we have, I think, a justification for what we are doing. Not that there is any obligation upon us to compensate those who forced this war on us. Certainly we have no obligation whatever to them. What we do, if we do it at all, may be an act of grace to them, but ought to be an act of policy for us. It is solely as an act of policy that I recommend that even by loan these men should be assisted. What I have felt for months past has been that when the hostilities came to an end our first object should be to restore the industries of the country—the great mining industry, of course, as it is from that industry that the greater part of the wealth of the country will always have to be derived, but the agricultural industry also, which must be developed by those who are in possession of the land—that is to say, by the Boer farmers who have been fighting against us. If they were to go back absolutely impecunious and unable to rebuild their homes and restock their farms, it might be years before the farming industry was restored; and I think it was in the interest of the Transvaal to make it part of our future policy that some assistance should be given to prevent such a contingency. I may say that long before this meeting with General Botha I had been in communication with Sir Alfred Milner on the subject. We entirely agreed on the matter, and that provision should be made, whenever the war is at an end, to deal with cases that may arise and to give such assistance as may be found desirable or necessary. The offer, which has not been contested at all to-night, actually to give £1,000,000 in order to pay the debts of the Transvaal is an offer which I feel to be an extremely dangerous one, or, at all events, one which requires to be carefully guarded. It is true that General Botha himself proposed that, in any case, such a grant should be limited to £1,000,000; but we have to take care, if we are to put money aside in that way, that it goes into the right pockets. We know that, in any country where it is stated publicly that there is £1,000,000 to be distributed, the claims have to be most carefully examined, and we should be perfectly justified in giving preference to the claims of loyalists. [Cries of "Oh!" from the Irish Benches.] Does somebody say "No"? I repeat that we should be justified in giving preference to the claims of loyalists. We should also have to take care that the debts are *bona fide*, and that we are not being asked to pay for goods which were not forcibly taken from their possessor, but willingly handed over as his contribution towards the progress of the war. Without being vindictive, it can hardly be expected that we should actually reward our enemies.

The only other point to which exception has been taken in the terms is as to the future government of the Transvaal. There has never been any change in our policy in regard to that matter. What we offered, and stated from the first that we offered and what we state now, and we are not to be moved one jot from our conclusion in that matter—what we propose is a gradual progress towards self-government. We propose that as soon as possible the military administration shall be done away with. We propose that there be substituted for that administration an Executive Council, together with a nominated, or partly nominated, Legislative Council. That is the second step in the progress. Probably the next step would be to give an elective element in the Legislative Assembly, and the last step would be absolute self-government. In the first place, what is the alternative? Lord Kitchener in his letter proposed that the Executive Council should be "with or without an elective Assembly." I am sure the House will be unanimous that we could not have done a worse thing than to accept those terms, because what does "with or without" mean? If they mean "with" we ought to say so, and if they mean "without," we certainly would be accused of breach of faith afterwards for not giving some representative element; and, as we never intended to give this representative element at the very beginning, we were quite right to point this out and make it perfectly clear that in our view it would not be an elective Assembly. How any man who knows anything of the situation can make such a preposterous proposal as that, and that we should commence with an elective Assembly, I cannot for the life of me understand. What are the facts? Before you can elect an Assembly you have to decide what the franchise is to be, who the electors are to be, what the electoral districts are to be, what the members returned for these are to be, and a whole heap of questions, all of which are of the greatest importance, and which it would necessarily take some time to consider and decide. But that is not all. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen actually is that we should elect this Assembly at a time when all the British element has been expelled and will be absent from their homes; and he recommends it to our acceptance because he says it would give them an elective Assembly something in the nature of the old Volksraad. Well, Sir, we have had some experience of the old Volksraad, in which the British were not represented. The idea that after all this war, after all this loss of life and treasure, we should begin with installing the old Volksraad without practically any British representation in it, seems to me one beyond which the force of unreason could not possibly further go.

Mr. BRYCE: I only want to know whether the right hon. Gentleman intended to represent me as having said that; I said nothing of the kind. I said that, presumably, if there were an Assembly, it would be an Assembly in which everyone would have a vote.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The right hon. Gentleman seems to have a singular incapacity for understanding what has been said. I have already pointed out to him that one section of the population would not be there. What is the good of everybody having a vote when half the population is away?

Mr. BRYCE: They will come back.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh, yes; but we are to do it before they come back.

Mr. BRYCE: I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am sorry to differ from the right hon. Gentleman, but if he will say now that when he says "immediately" he does not mean "immediately," and if he will go further and say what time he thinks it would be right to give before the Crown Colony government is abolished in favour of one in which there is to be an elective Assembly, then we can understand what it is we are arguing. He did use the words, "an elective Assembly," to be like the old Volksraad, and he did say that to set up a Crown Colony government would be the worst possible solution. Therefore he could only have meant that immediately after military administration we were to set up an elective Assembly. I cannot twist his language into any other meaning. To any proposal of that kind I take the most absolute exception. As to the terms of difference between us, let us see what Sir Alfred Milner says. Sir Alfred Milner says that the suggestions we have made are many of them improvements. He still would prefer the omission of the words "by loan," but the context shows that he is evidently of opinion that by inserting the words we may not absolutely preclude the possibility of a gift, which, as I have said, was not our intention. I do not believe that when Sir A. Milner knows what we propose he will differ from us on that point. As regards Lord Kitchener, I do not think it would be proper for us to ask him for his opinion on these proposals of His Majesty's Government; but I would point out that in the interview with Botha, what Lord Kitchener said, with every qualification as to its being only a personal impression, was what he believed to be the opinion of His Majesty's Government. It does not follow that when he knew what the opinion of His Majesty's Government was he would not be equally agreeable to those terms. I think there is only one other matter to which I need call attention, and that is a remark which fell from my hon. friend the Member for Durham. Practically, with the whole of his speech I absolutely agree. It was a very moderate statement of the case. We ourselves have disclaimed over and over again anything in the nature of a vindictive feeling with regard to our foes. That does not enter into our policy, and never has done. We want to make it absolutely certain that the issue for which the war was undertaken shall be favourable to us; we want to make it absolutely certain that there shall be no recurrence of the war; but when we have taken the steps that we think necessary for that purpose, there certainly will remain no feeling whatever of a desire to punish or to be revenged upon those against whom we have been in arms.

MR. ELLIOT: I hope it will be understood that I have brought no charge against the Government. My point was that pressure might at some time be exercised by persons with more vindictive feelings than the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: So long as the present Government are in office I do not think it matters much what these imaginary or unknown vindictive persons may say or do. All I can say is that I do not know them. They do not appeal to me. Although I entirely agree with my hon. friend that he made no charge against the Government, unless he has some cause for uneasiness, or cause to believe that we shall be vindictive, unreasonable, and arbitrary, I do not understand why he gets up so often to impress those virtues upon us. A point in his speech to which I do take serious objection was that with regard to Sir Alfred Milner. He said his personal friendship for Sir Alfred Milner, which I know exists, would prevent him from under estimating the full importance of his services, or the great qualities of his character. But, in spite of Sir Alfred Milner's virtues, ability, and experience, my hon. friend went on to suggest that when the burden of the day is passed, a burden which has been entirely on Sir Alfred Milner's shoulders, then the credit of the settlement should devolve upon somebody else. This tribute to his friend, I must say, lacks something in the shape of generosity. I think I have dealt with all the points raised. I will only say in conclusion that I agree entirely with those who seek to impress upon us again and again the fact that after this war is over the two races must live together. That is a matter which is continuously present to us. But, as I have said before, the most important element in securing that good feeling between the two races is that we should be animated by mutual respect, and if we take any steps which would lead the Boers to suspect our firmness, resolution, and courage, and to believe that they are less than their own, the two races will never settle down in harmony, and I am convinced that the Boers would again attempt the policy which, I am happy to say, has failed on the present occasion.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire): The right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary has been revelling to-night in his favourite element. There are many topics in regard to social legislation on which he might have dilated, but all these yielded when he had the chance of discoursing on the divisions in the Liberal party. That topic owes a great deal to the right hon. Gentleman. If there is, as I believe there is, a division on this subject of the present situation in South Africa, the person who has most advertised it and brought it before the mind of the country is the right hon. Gentleman. To-night the right hon. Gentleman had his opportunity, and he has reviewed the speeches which have been made in the course of the present discussion ; but so keen was he to dwell on the differences amongst Liberals that he forgot altogether the differences on the Unionist side of the House. The right hon. Gentleman omitted to the last, and then only briefly, to take notice of the admirable speech made by the hon. Member for the city of Durham. That hon. Gentleman, in a tone which was full of a desire to be fair, made a proposition which many of us think to be well deserving of consideration. The hon. Gentleman then passed to another topic, and spoke of the answer which had been given by the right hon. the Secretary for the Colonies on Saturday morning to the question put by the hon. Member for Rushcliffe. In that answer the right hon. Gentleman invited the House to believe that they were in possession of all the facts of the case, and that he had no information as to what Lord Kitchener had said to General Botha. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that what we were reproaching him with was for not having suppressed the facts within his knowledge. Is it necessary for anyone on this side of the House to say that our purpose was not to convey anything of the kind ? But we have a good cause for complaint that on Saturday morning we learned for the first time that it was the personality of Sir A. Milner which had led to the failure of the negotiations. For my part, I do not believe that the right hon. Gentleman should have given that answer without publishing the words of the telegram which contained such a grave suggestion, and which has caused so much confusion. On the question of amnesty I think the right hon. Gentleman was well founded in his proposition that there were no serious differences between Lord Kitchener and General Botha. In the account of the interview between Lord Kitchener and General Botha, Sir A. Milner agreed with what Lord Kitchener had proposed, with the exception that, instead of the words "as well as to move the Governments of Cape Colony," etc., there should be read, "British subjects of Cape Colony or Natal, though they will not be compelled to return to those colonies, will if they do so be liable to be dealt with under the laws of those colonies specifically passed to meet the circumstances arising out of the present war, and which greatly mitigate the ordinary penalties of rebellion." I do not think that Sir A. Milner meant anything very different from what the right hon. Gentlemen meant. But the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary would have been well advised if he had acceded to the strong view expressed by Sir A. Milner in his despatch of 9th March, that the advances to the Boers should not be confined, in all cases, to advances by way of loan. I feel that there are strong grounds for what was urged by the hon. Member for Durham on this matter. I believe that the cheapest thing we can do will, in the end, be the most generous. I cannot believe that we can differentiate between the loyalists and those who have risen in rebellion. I do not believe that the advances should be in all cases by way of gift, but we should not be tied down in a hard and fast fashion to make the advances by way of loan.

My right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen said there had been a good deal of indiscreet praise of Sir A. Milner. I think there has been a good deal of indiscreet blame of Sir A. Milner. I believe that, whether rightly or wrongly, Sir A. Milner is actuated by the highest motives, and is the very last person to allow himself to be made the tool of any faction at the Cape, or to support any ascendency of Briton over Boer, any more than Boer over Briton. We have got to realise and bear in mind the peculiar difficulties of the position. I believe that not only in

Cape Colony and Natal, but in the two late Republics, the majority of the white inhabitants are not of British blood. If that be so, we have got to consider the point of view of the Afrikanders, and how we can conciliate the Boers as well as the people of British blood who take up a strong attitude on this matter. The business of His Majesty's Government is to hold the balance evenly between the two contending factions in South Africa, and to make it perfectly clear that there is to be no racial ascendency of Boer over Briton or Briton over Boer. The scale should be held at a perfect level, and it would be a mistake for the Government to lend themselves to any treatment which would differentiate the case of the loyalists from the case of the colonists who have thrown in their lot with the Boers. Therefore, on the question of amnesty, and on other matters, I feel myself in agreement with the course taken by Lord Kitchener and Sir A. Milner rather than with that adopted by His Majesty's Government.

I wish to say a word upon the question of what is called Crown Colony administration. I think that is a most unfortunate term to have introduced into the matter, for it covers two or three sorts of administration. Crown Colony administration has peculiar associations in South Africa. It is identified with the rule of Sir Owen Lanyon, which was a great failure. It is also associated with the government of some of the small islands under British dominion, where it means the management of things from Downing Street. From the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary and the despatches I understand that the Crown Colony administration proposed to be set up in South Africa is something of a very different character from government from Downing Street. What the Government proposes, as I understand it, is to govern these colonies from South Africa, the Government here being responsible, but delegating authority to somebody on the spot, who should form his own judgment, and base and frame the policy of the Government upon the knowledge he has acquired on the spot, telling them what course they ought to adopt. That is a very different thing from Crown Colony government in the ordinary sense, and if it is put into the hands of a fit and proper man I can conceive nothing better as forming the initiatory stage from which by subsequent stages we may proceed to popular representative government. In this connection the extensive experience and knowledge of Sir A. Milner cannot fail to count for much, and I should regret very much if we were deprived of the services of the one man strong enough to hold down the British faction as he has held down the Dutch; who would keep them in their places and allow neither to get the upper hand. The House should give the Government every chance, believing that the Government knew better than they the circumstances and facts which ought to determine what the transition stages between this so-called Crown Colony government and popular representation should be. I do not believe that Botha rejected these terms on any small matter or any difference between the despatches sent from here and the proposals made by Lord Kitchener. I do not believe he declined to entertain peace on a question connected with the personality of Sir A. Milner. Botha is a man who has fought a brave fight, and a man for whom I have a profound respect. He is placed in a difficult position, and I believe it will be discovered when all the facts are known that he could not control those with whom he was associated.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies made his speech an attack upon my right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen. I can assure the Secretary for the Colonies that my admiration for the Member for South Aberdeen—and I think it is the feeling of many Members in this House—rises each time the right hon. Gentleman seizes upon his opportunity to attack him and sneer at him. The Secretary for the Colonies described his own speech pretty clearly when he said, speaking of the speech of the Member for South Aberdeen, "I cannot twist his language into any other meaning." The fact is, he spent half an hour trying to evolve meanings which did not exist in my right hon. friend's speech.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present; House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. LABOUCHERE: The right hon. Gentleman then fell back on his old device. He deplored the differences on this side of the House. I trust there always will be differences on the Liberal side of the House. They are an independent party acting together for specific objects, but they preserve their independence on various matters. If I recollect rightly the right hon. Gentleman himself was accustomed to act in a very independent manner. I remember something about the "Unauthorised Programme," and he would have found then that a great many persons did not agree with him. We have had as yet three gentlemen on this side of the House addressing it. These three gentlemen are, I take it, "Liberal Imperialists." We are not all Liberal Imperialists on this side; in fact, the Liberal Imperialists are very few in number, and we who are not Liberal Imperialists represent the majority of the Liberal party. I may say that those gentlemen are always looking over the hedge and supporting the Conservative party. These three gentlemen are all members of the legal profession, and they tried the matter in a *nisi prius* sort of way. They took small, nagging objections, and as I was listening to them I could not help thinking of what Burke once said—that a lawyer knows as little about great political subjects as a mouse understands about the parturition of an elephant.

I think it was the hon. Member for Linlithgow who went out of his way to say that the terms which were being offered to the Boers were the most lenient and the most generous a victor has ever offered to his foe, and he challenged us to show the contrary. You cannot prove a negative. I would challenge the hon. Member, or any hon. Member of his way of thinking, perhaps, on the other side of the House, to tell me a case in which terms less lenient were ever offered by a victor to the conquered. We burn their farms, depopulate the country, and deport a large number of them, and we then tell them that we are exceedingly lenient if we give them a small trifle as a loan, in order to help them to take back a few farms and build a few houses where their former homes were. We tell them that we are going to deprive them of their independence and their flag. If the French were to vanquish us, and if we were to be told, after being harried and having our houses all burned down, that we were to receive a little sum of money out of the French Treasury, and that we must thank God that we were going to have occasion to cease to be Englishmen to become Frenchmen, we would not consider the terms liberal. The terms we offer to the Boers are not liberal, and they are not lenient. I am one of those who have never concealed their opinions in regard to this war. I have always regarded it as a crime But we have to look at the facts as they are. The milk has been spilt, and the question for us is really what we should now best do in the interest of the Empire, and particularly of South Africa. Shall we continue this war? We know the death list published every week. We know what we are doing in South Africa, the misery and desolation we are producing there, and we know that it costs a somewhat large sum, £1,500,000 per week, or rather more, perhaps, to carry out this policy. For my part, I am not in favour of that. I do not regard that as a policy. I am not one of those who blame the Boers for resisting. I regard the Boers as brave men, and I would honour any man who resists no matter what force, when it is a question of the independence of his native land. I may regret that they do resist and do not submit to the inevitable. To say that we should regard them as base men whom we ought to despise because they are doing what we should do ourselves under similar circumstances is a preposterous doctrine.

Up to just recently the only "terms" we had offered to the Boers were to surrender at discretion. If they gave up their arms and put themselves entirely into our hands we were ready to receive them.

That was altered on the occasion of the recent negotiations. I respect Lord Kitchener for having taken the line he did in those negotiations. Lord Kitchener is a soldier, and I believe a somewhat rough soldier. He does not hesitate in doing his utmost in order to achieve victory. But I do think that of all the three gentlemen who seem to have the destinies of South Africa in their hands—the Secretary for the Colonies, Sir Alfred Milner, and Lord Kitchener — Lord Kitchener has shown himself far more of a statesman than either of the other two. If anybody looks into the Blue-book given to us he will see that Lord Kitchener himself invited General Botha to meet him. He sent the request through Mrs. Botha. What does the right hon. Gentleman say in answer to Lord Kitchener's letter that this had taken place? He says, "I am glad to hear that General Botha desires to treat." It was Lord Kitchener who desired to treat, and General Botha was willing to hear the terms we were willing to submit to him, and if he thought them desirable terms, then to accept them. General Botha seemed to me to be anxious to bring about peace, and so far as minor details, if I may so call them, are concerned, I do not think there would have been any insuperable difficulty if the matter had been left to General Botha and Lord Kitchener. But at once Sir Alfred Milner interfered. Sir Alfred Milner would not go so far as Lord Kitchener in the matter of the amnesty. I was rather amused when the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies was speaking at the absolute mess he got into in regard to the recommendation of Lord Kitchener. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to imply that Lord Kitchener did not advise an amnesty, but it was shown to him that Lord Kitchener, in the letter he proposed to write to General Botha, had literally stated that one of the proposals that he, subject to the approval of this Government, would submit to General Botha was that there should be a full amnesty not only to the Transvaalers and the Orange Free Staters but also to the rebels from Cape Colony. All the limitation he made was that he was ready to accept their disfranchisement, and certainly that was not a matter of serious importance. It was a matter that concerned the Cape Government itself. What did the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies say? He said it was a suggestion and not a recommendation. I really do not know what he meant. I hardly like to make a suggestion or recommendation to a gentleman who is so very able a debater as the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but if I might venture to do so, it is to stick to his own views and arguments which he intends to use, and not be led astray from them by something the Secretary of State for War says to him. He got into a mess through the Secretary for War, who was sitting near him.

I shall not enter at any length into the question of the difference between "loan" and "gift." I do not think it is a matter of very great importance. But what is important is that Lord Kitchener did propose that there should be a gift. Sir Alfred Milner took his side, and the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies interfered and said it must be a loan. Sir Alfred Milner said this would weaken the effect on the Boers, and Lord Kitchener was even stronger in his view than Sir Alfred Milner. Then the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies to-day showed how very right General Botha was to distrust the alteration made by the Secretary for the Colonies when he told us that the gift is to be limited to a certain sum, and that the loyalists would be considered first. If the loyalists are to be considered first, I should like to know what will remain for those in the Transvaal or Orange Free State who have taken the side of their respective countries.

The real difference, so far as I can see, that separates Sir Alfred Milner or the Secretary of State for the Colonies from General Botha and his friends is the position that these men will occupy after the war. When the Secretary of State for the Colonies gave his consent to the meeting with General Botha he wrote—"I have already made clear the policy we intend to pursue as to government." The right hon. Gentleman did make it perfectly clear. He told us in the House that the Boers would not be allowed one single shred of independence. What did he mean by that? I do not gather that the Boers are claiming to be outside the area of the British Empire. I remember that Sir Wilfrid Laurier lately said Canada was an independent nation, and the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies echoed that sentiment. I would like to know what would be said in any one of the self-governing colonies if the Secretary for the Colonies were to declare that they did not possess one shred of independence. They would insist at once that they had independence. The question is not whether the Boers are to enter the area of the Empire, but what is to be the position they will occupy when they enter. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies even disputed the small amount of independence Lord Kitchener was prepared to grant to the Boers. Lord Kitchener says there will be a Crown Colony with an elective Assembly, followed by representative government. The Secretary for the Colonies says there will be a Crown Council, but the members will be nominated; he will then introduce the representative element, not representative government, and ultimately concede the privilege of self-government. We know perfectly well what "ultimately" means. We have heard of it from Lord Salisbury himself. I do not know whether the Secretary for the Colonies reads his speeches. Lord Salisbury said it might be generations before this self-government was granted to them. When talking about "ultimately" we must accept the view that it may be generations before we grant it. What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by the "privilege" of self-government? Self-government is not a privilege. It is a right, and I assert that every man so soon as he becomes a citizen of this Empire has that absolute right. It is not granted as a generous gift. He has a right to it precisely in the same way as we have a right to it in this country. It must be remembered when we talk of these generous terms what we are asking the Boers to do. We are calling on the Boers to surrender their national existence and flag, and yet when they were ready to accept this position and when they asked what their position would be in the Empire, practically the reply was that their position in the Empire, so far as political rights were concerned, would be little better than that of Kaffirs. So far as ultimate self-government was concerned they were to put their faith in the Colonial Secretary. I do not put my faith in the Colonial Secretary, and I do not know why the Boers should do so. If they would take my advice it would be, "Put no faith in the Colonial Secretary." I would say also, "Put it all in black and white."

I regret that these negotiations have ended so unfortunately, but I am in no way surprised that they have done so. We have lost a great opportunity to end the war and settle South Africa in the only way it is possible to settle it. It is very probable, and I think it is certain, considering the disparity of the forces, that peace won with the sword will be of no advantage to us. A dependency will be created in which racial feuds will go on, the minority will be placed over the majority, and the rule of the minority maintained by a huge British garrison. Our aim ought to be to make South Africa a strength, not a weakness, to the Empire; to obtain the assent of the people of South Africa to their country becoming a portion of the Empire; and to make South Africa not a dependency ruled by a garrison, but a Free State like Canada or Australia, which, together with us, should form the British Empire. Hon. Members should look a little at the facts. In South Africa there is a Dutch majority which will be perfectly certain to increase every decade, for the reason that the Dutch people in South Africa are exceedingly prolific. In order to meet that, what does the Colonial Secretary propose to do? He sent out a Commission to discover whether South Africa was a fitting place for English colonists. Probably anybody on this side of the House could have told him that a more God-forsaken place for English colonists did not exist. He even carried his idea so far that we were to endeavour to increase the population by a sort of competition between the Dutch and the mythical colonists and the mythical women in the procreation of their species. It must also be remembered that the Dutch are agriculturists, and agriculturists are always the backbone of a country. What are the English in Cape Colony? They are middlemen and speculators; they are men who go out there not with the intention of remaining, but simply to make if possible a certain amount of money and then come back to England. South Africa never will be a place for English working men, owing to their inability to compete with the abundant mass of cheap labour in that part of the world. The Afrikander in Cape Colony has certain racial sympathies with theAfrikander in the Orange State and the Transvaal. That is not the least surprising. These Afrikanders were formerly loyal to the Crown; they objected to the war, and some even went so far as to join the Boers. We may regret that, but let us reverse the position. Suppose Cape Colony had been in the hands of Holland, that these two small States had been English, and that Holland had attacked them. Do you mean to say that Englishmen living in Cape Colony would not have taken sides with the English? We know perfectly well that they would. When we complain of these men we are acting contrary to every principle we have ever professed. Surely you must make allowances for the Dutchmen who, carried away by their racial sympathies, joined their countrymen in defending themselves against our attacks. They were aggravated into this course before the war. We all remember the famous speech of Sir Alfred Milner in which he attacked them----

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Which speech?

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg your pardon, it was not a speech; it was a despatch. in which he spoke of the Uitlanders being "helots," and expressed views as to the Dutch in Cape Colony in a way which was exceedingly uncomplimentary to their loyalty. The Afrikanders really believe that the war is to a certain extent only an excuse to enable the minority to obtain a majority in the Cape Assembly by a jerrymandering of the constitution, and by the disfranchisement of a large number of Afrikanders. During the war they have seen martial law prevailing in their country, administered not by English generals and officers, but in many cases by their political opponents, who never lose an opportunity of taking advantage of them. The Transvaal is an exceedingly poor country with the exception of the gold. The Transvaal farmers live in a poor, rude manner which Englishmen will not accept. There came the rush for gold, and then happened that which happens everywhere. A great cosmopolitan crew of adventurers arrived there. About 1850 I was in California and saw what happened there. You can rule these camps only by a species of lynch law. You have a vigilance committee, and I, the respectable Englishman standing before the House to-day, have sat on a jury and comdemned a man to be hung by lynch law. ["Oh, oh!"] What would those gentlemen who say, "Oh, oh!" have done? The man had shot somebody, he was a ruffian; the vigilancecommitteewas theonlyauthority existing; a jury was called, and I had to act as a juryman. My duty as a juryman was to say whether or not the man was guilty. If he was innocent I should have said he was innocent, but if the case was made out I said "Guilty," and the sentence was undoubtedly unpleasant to the gentleman himself. I only cite that to show the difficulty these farmers must have had to get any sort of law recognised among these cosmopolitan adventurers. I do not particularly admire the Boers; there is a great deal too much of the conservative element in them. They have their virtues, and their faults; but if you judge between the Afrikanders of South Africa and the Englishmen who go there, recognising fully that amongst the English there are many highly respectable men, I think the Boers are the better men. Certainly so far as we are concerned, if we want to maintain our rule in South Africa the Boers are the safest men to be on good terms with. We must also take into account the increase every year in the black races, and also the advance of civilisation. Mr. Merriman, in his petiion to be heard at the bar of the House, has pointed out how necessary it is that we should do everything to abate this racial feud between Afrikanders and Englishmen, and that otherwise we should be faced with this great increase of the black races. But the English and Dutch together would probably be able to hold their own against them.

What are the Boers ready to do? As I read the correspondence they are ready to enter the area of the British Empire, but only upon terms. Surely our problem is to find terms that are honourable to us, and to those brave men themselves, which will produce a state of things that will be of no danger to ourselves, but eventually lead to South Africa becoming one of the great commonwealths connected with the Empire, such as now exist in Canada and Australia. What are the terms I would suggest? First, a full and absolute amnesty. I cannot understand these arguments of vengeance or political supremacy. I am talking not of the question of justice, but of policy and expediency. Any country that has gone through a species of civil war—for that is what it comes to— if it is wise does not treat the conquered as conquered, but endeavours to make no distinction between the one side and the other. In Canada, in 1836, what happened in the Papineau Rebellion was that, although the six men who were already transported were for some reason excepted, the fullest amnesty was given to men who were unquestionably technically, and as matter of fact, rebels. Why we cannot follow in South Africa the policy which has been so successful in Canada I cannot understand. In regard to the Transvaal and the Orange State, I would make them, not in generations, but as soon as possible, self-governing colonies. What objection can you have to the Orange State becoming a self-governing colony? It has been regarded by all Englishmen who have written upon it as a model State, and was said to have the very best Government existing in South Africa. In the Transvaal I admit there is a difficulty. As soon as the Uitlanders came back the Dutch would be outvoted, and probably the Dutch would lose more than they gained. But that fact could be met in a very simple way. For the benefit of the Dutch themselves, and with their consent, separate the mining area, the Rand, from the Transvaal Colony, give the large area remaining, in which they would have a majority, to the Dutch, and you would be able to administer under a military Governor, if you like, the Rand. The absolute necessity of giving some sort of pecuniary aid to the Transvaalers would be easily met by giving them a reasonable rental for the district of which you deprive them. The Colonial Secretary and others have always played upon the word "immediately." "Immediately" means not tomorrow, but as soon as possible. All we contend is that it would be undesirable to establish there a Crown Colony government, because it would mean a question of years before self-government could be instituted. Of course, it requires time. We, and I believe the Boers also, would be perfectly ready to agree that there should be a provisional government, let it be either military or civil. Personally I should prefer Lord Kitchener to Sir Alfred Milner. Let the provisional government be there simply to carry on affairs during the time we are arranging for the colony to be self-governing. As to Sir Alfred Milner, he really seems to me to be regarded as a sort of divine pro-consul, and if anybody ventures to say a word, not against his personal character or his intelligence in many walks of life, but against his being a fit man for South Africa at the present moment, hon. Members immediately say, "Oh, oh!" Sir Alfred Milner began as an Oxford don, and he became a valuable official in the Treasury. Both those circumstances are against him as a practical man in South African politics.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: He is a Liberal.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I am not questioning his Liberalism, although I do not see much of it in South Africa. What I do object to is the claim of infallibility. He is the very worst man you could find for putting an end to racial feuds. The hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick at a Liberal Imperialist dinner, speaking of Sir Alfred Milner, said—

> "It is impossible to send any other man in his place who would not have the position made untenable by the British section."

Those words prove my case. This gentleman is considered by the English section to be such a partisan that they literally would confederate, or possibly rebel, in order to make untenable the position of any other man who might replace him. Surely we are not to be tied down in that way. The very fact that he is looked upon as a partisan of the one side is a sufficient reason why, if we want to bring the war to an end, and to get the people to be friendly together, we should substitute for him some other man. There are a dozen men on the other side of the House who would do the thing more efficiently if they were sent than Sir Alfred Milner. ["No."] Hon. Gentlemen are really too modest. ["Name."] I will not name anybody here, as it might be personal to others; but a man like Lord Dufferin in the other House would do more towards bringing peace than any of the military operations of our soldiers. We are told again and again that the Boers must be conquered, because there is something peculiar in the Boer in that he will not accept any argument that is not knocked into his head by physical force. But the very gentlemen who tell us that are those who have been wrong right throughout the entire war. It is perfect nonsense for for us on this point to believe either Ministers or the miserable press that supports them. What are the Boers after all? They are farmers, and a farmer, as a rule, does not look far beyond his own nose or his own fields. The Boers lived far distant from one another, and they hardly recognised the Government at Pretoria. You may say that the Transvaal was a confederation of divers districts paying a certain allegiance to Pretoria, but each separate district was practically independent of the other, and I believe they carried their independence so far as to refuse on several occasions to pay any taxes that went to Pretoria. These simple-minded men met once a week or month in a little town and passed most of their time in singing hymns. These men are as honourable as we are, and, unless they are very different from farmers and agriculturists in every other part of the world, I cannot suppose that they would say: "We are not going to cultivate our fields or look after our own interests; we are going to rebel against the Government." They would be perfectly satisfied if you gave them that local autonomy which really they did possess under the Boer Government itself.

We are accused of being pro-Boers. I do not know what the term means, but, as far as I can understand, it applies to anyone who does not agree with the policy of the Government in South Africa. Even admitting that the Government have a great deal of political wisdom, they have not a monopoly. We are so foolish as to think that a certain amount of political wisdom exists among the Liberal party. Let us agree that neither party has a monopoly of that element, and that one is not a wretch, a traitor, or a felon because he happens to disagree with the policy of the Government. We have the interests of the Empire as much at heart as hon. Gentlemen opposite, and it certainly required more courage while the war fever was raging for a Member of this House to risk his seat, his popularity, and his position in the country by going against the passion of the hour than to glide with the stream. Hon. Gentlemen opposite should not attack us and imply that we have acted dishonourably, because, believing honestly that this war was a mistake, we boldly stood up before our countrymen and said so. I am not influenced by the Rhodesian press, nor am I influenced at all by mere party considerations. If I were it would be in the interests of the Liberal party that I should allow the Government to continue to cook in their own juice. [AN HON. MEMBER: "Stew."] Well, either "cook" or "stew," I will give you the choice. I think hon. Gentlemen opposite will admit that the war is not quite so popular now as it was in February last, and it will become more and more unpopular every day, and will end by ruining the Unionist party. It is an old dictum that the party which embarks upon a war in the end suffers by it, and if you go on with this war policy we shall have a majority of 150 at the next election. But I am not influenced by party considerations; I prefer my country to my party, and that is why I give to hon. Gentlemen opposite advice which is clearly not in the interests of the party of which I am a member. I want the war to cease, and I want it to cease in such a way that we shall not have a great disaffected dependency in South Africa. I want us to have a colony which will be a strength, and not a weakness, to the Empire. This great and noble Empire was not built up in the fashion that hon. Gentlemen are trying to build it up now, and it will not be maintained in the way they are seeking to maintain it. I do urge Ministers to act as statesmen instead of mere partisans. I urge them to emancipate themselves from the thraldom of the very worst elements in any party, of these Cape Town filibusters, of these cosmopolitan millionaires, of this Rhodesian press howling for blood and swaggering and boasting all over the world in a manner which renders them the laughing stock of all Europe.

Have hon. Gentlemen opposite read yesterday a telegram that was received from the South African correspondent of *The Times*? I think that was a very remarkable telegram. Explaining the situation, *The Times* correspondent said that we did not want another 30,000 men, but we wanted 50,000 men, and he seemed to think the war would last two years, and he thought we should make it clear to the Boers that, although it would last two years, we were prepared to go on for ten years. We are spending £1,500,000 per week upon this war, and I will leave it to hon. Members opposite to calculate how much we shall have spent at that rate at the end of ten years. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said this was the most unfortunate war we have ever been engaged in. I do not think anyone can look with approval or admiration at the mode in which we are carrying on this war. This system of depopulating the country, destroying the farms, and reducing the whole place to a desert, is un-English. When we remember that we ourselves hope to conquer these colonies and get them into our hands, it seems to me to be sheer madness to pursue such a policy if by any other means we can come to a practical arrangement with the Boers. I protest against the policy now being carried on, for I believe it is against our own interest, contrary to humanity, contrary to every principle which ought to actuate an enlightened Government, and contrary to that principle of independence of nations that we have hitherto professed.

Mr. SEELY (Lincoln): At this hour of the evening I will not detain the House at any length, more particularly as I understand there is another important subject which the House wishes to discuss before parting with the Appropriation Bill. I should like to say just a word or two upon the question before the House. I should like to add my word to the general approval which I think has come from all sides of the House as to the liberal and generous terms which His Majesty's Government offered to the Boers a fortnight or three weeks ago. I agree with the hon. Member for Haddington when he says that he does not believe that the small differences between the terms suggested by Lord Kitchener and the letter which was ultimately sent out by the Government had much effect upon the ultimate result and refusal of those terms by the Boers. I cannot help thinking myself that the subject we are to discuss in a short period from now may have had more to do with this refusal than any small differences as to the terms of peace. I hope that when the Boers see, as they must see by now, that the troubles in the East which occurred on the 12th and 14th March, before they sent their reply, have now come to an end, they will somewhat regret the attitude they took up in the middle of this month.

I should like to press upon the Government two points in regard to these terms in case they should come up again. One is the question of the assistance to be given for the rebuilding of farms, as to whether it should be given by loan or in some other way. I quite understand the object of the Colonial Secretary in inserting the words "by loan," and I think all those who listened to his speech must agree that it was necessary to take some precaution of the nature he has pointed out. But I do hope the Government will interpret very liberally indeed those words, and let it be widely known that there are a considerable number of special and exceptional cases where the assistance could take the form of gifts. Undoubtedly many farms have been burned by mistake. I know of one case myself where the farm of a woman who had nursed our wounded was destroyed. [Cheers from the Irish benches.] Hon. Members opposite need not cheer me, for they are more responsible for this war and for the continuance of our troubles in South Africa than anybody else. [Nationalist interruptions.]

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Lecture your own friends.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has not used any unparliamentary expression, and he has a right to say that in his opinion a particular party is responsible for the war. Hon. Members must not interrupt in this way.

MR. SEELY: I thought that hon. Members opposite seemed to imply by their cheers that I was in sympathy with some of the speeches they had made on this subject. [An IRISH MEMBER: "Keep your sympathy."] I know of a case where a woman who had nursed our wounded, and had nursed them with great kindness and great devotion, and who had won the respect of every member of that company, had her farm afterwards burned, not by those men, but by another company of soldiers who knew nothing about this, and who destroyed the farm through some mistake. If that occurred in one case, similar things may have occurred in many other cases, and there must be many other instances where farms have been burned where, if there had been full time to consider the circumstances, they would have been spared. Therefore, I hope the Colonial Secretary will interpret these exceptions very liberally, and let it be known widely that he is willing to do so.

There is one other matter, although it is with very great diffidence that one speaks about it, because it is a very difficult question—I refer to the question of amnesty for the colonial rebels. I see the difficulty in giving an amnesty to men who are undoubtedly rebels and who have fought against us with no grievance of their own, but I do think that those Boers who are fighting in the regular forces under such commanders as General Botha should be treated differently, because it is difficult for them to lay down their arms without some very clear understanding as to what they will be liable to. I do hope that when His Majesty's Government reopen negotiations they will consider that point very carefully. I have merely mentioned these two topics, not with the intention of disapproving of what His Majesty's Government have done or of criticising their action, but simply as suggesting two points on which I think it is desirable that they should act with even greater generosity and liberality than they have acted in the terms offered. I hope that the liberality and generosity which they have shown towards the Boers will have its reward in influencing them to soon put an end to this most disastrous, and, to them, this most ruinous war.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I approach this question not as an Englishman, whose mind for the time being is filled with thoughts of satisfaction, but with feelings of regret for the blood of my countrymen which has been spilt, and regret for the loss of money and prestige which my country has suffered. The right hon. Gentleman on the Front Opposition Bench who so courageously expressed his honest views upon this question, was taken very severely to task for his words by the Colonial Secretary, who misinterpreted and twisted the meaning of those words. I listened with great interest to the hon. Member for Northampton, who spoke of the courage which it required to come to this House and express honest convictions about the war and afterwards share the fate which those convictions had so often brought. I admire the man who has the courage to speak out plainly and fearlessly at what I consider is a very critical moment in our history. I approach this question with absolutely no bias or partiality. Ireland owes nothing to the Boers. We are not connected with them by ties of kindred or of religion. We are of a different creed, and an entirely different race. We have no memories of past services rendered by them towards our country or its people to urge us on to immoderate zeal or unreasonable demands on their behalf, and therefore are we qualified to speak on the subject now before the House with impartial minds, with minds unclouded by prejudice, by self interest, or by any of the other baser feelings that naturally arise within the breasts of those intimately concerned or directly engaged in the quarrel.

We Irishmen rise solely in the interests of justice and fair play. We have watched with horror and indignation the combat—if such it may be styled—which has now dragged on for over seventeen months. We expressed our disapproval of the causes which led to the war at the beginning as unworthy of a great Empire, degrading to a Christian people, characteristic only of the looting ages, which we supposed had passed. From their position in this House Irishmen have time after time criticised severely, but with only too much truth and justice, the inhuman and barbarous manner in which you conducted this war, by which, ten against one, you still resort to the cruellest treatment of women and children—to the burning of homesteads, to exposure, hunger and forced exile to your camps—some of them dens of vice—in order that you might induce these people to piteously appeal to their fellow-countrymen to give up the struggle and volunteer a surrender which your might was unable to enforce. The Boers are of a different race and creed from the Irish, and as the latter owe nothing to them and are outside the quarrel, they are most competent to give an unprejudiced opinion upon it. You have a vast army, backed up by the richest treasury in the world and unlimited supplies, matched against 30,000 untrained farmers. Yet, in spite of such enormous odds on our side, you have to resort to methods which are not honourable, like the burning of farms and the throwing of women out on the veldt to starve and die. [A UNIONIST MEMBER: It is a falsehood.]

MR. BURKE (King's County, Tullamore) asked whether it was in order for an hon. Member opposite to apply the word "falsehood" to what was said by a Member on the Opposition benches.

***MR. SPEAKER**: If any hon. Member used that expression regarding anything said by the hon. Member who is addressing the House, he should withdraw it. [Nationalist cheers and cries of "Brookfield."]

MR. FLAVIN: I heard the hon. Member sitting on the front bench below the gangway use that expression. He said, "It is an impudent falsehood."

COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): In deference to your ruling, Sir, I beg to withdraw the expression.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I repeat that women and children were thrown out on the veldt to die. All these inhuman sights are ever present to the mind of the Boer, and surely they are not such as will tempt him to come in and willingly lay down his arms and trust himself to the care of the Government which caused all this trouble! We wish these inhuman and brutalising acts to cease. We Irishmen are for peace and for justice, and I think Englishmen on both sides of this House will admit that we ought to be ready and willing to sacrifice a great deal in order to bring about peace.

I will turn to the correspondence which has recently been issued. In that correspondence hon. Gentlemen will note that the one point insisted upon by General Botha was some sort of independence. One point insisted upon by hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House is that we should refuse any form of independence. [Ministerial cheers.] I am sorry to hear hon. Gentlemen cheer that statement, but perhaps the time will come when charity and justice will demand this concession, and possibly they will then repent that they did not consider this question more carefully. It is useful to notice two very important changes in the attitude of the British Government, directly and solely attributable to Boer perseverance and success. The first is that it is the English who now first moved for peace, and the second is that they have come down considerably from the "unconditional surrender" attitude adopted on a previous occasion. These changes are important, and to thinking Englishmen ought to be instructive. Turning to the first telegram from Kitchener, he states that Botha agreed to discuss terms of peace on the express understanding that the independence of the Transvaal and the Orange Free Colony were not to be discussed. In a second telegram to Mr. Brodrick, Lord Kitchener, says "Botha showed very good feeling, and was anxious for peace; he tried very hard for some kind of independence." which of course was refused. It is certainly instructive, in reading the final revised telegram sent to Botha, to note the beautifully characteristic vagueness of its terms, all, of course with the object of being—

"quite precise, in order to avoid any charge of breach of faith afterwards." "Amnesty will be given for *bona fide* acts of war."

The devil trying his case in his own court!—

> "*At the earliest practicable date* military administration will give place to Crown Colony government."

Then—

> "*As soon as circumstances permit* a representative element will be introduced,"

and, as if dealing with men who have neither spirit nor manhood in them the telegram proceeds—

> "*Ultimately* the privilege of self-government will be conceded."

Is this the way to treat a brave people? Are these the prospects that will induce men who love liberty dearer than life, posterity dearer than self, to come in and end this horrible and inhuman war? Is it any wonder, in the face of that telegram, that Botha, who was fighting for his home, his family, for freedom, for posterity, for his country, should have replied—

> "It will certainly not surprise your Excellency to know that I do not feel disposed to recommend that the terms of your letter should have the earnest consideration of my Government?"

And now, when these bitter, inhuman sights are about to be ended, and prospects of peace appear on the horizon, we again appeal, for justice sake, on behalf of humanity, on behalf of the age which proclaims itself Christian, that you will listen to the voice of reason, and yield to these brave men such terms as they can honourably accept—such terms as their unexampled bravery deserves. "Not unacquainted with sorrow, the sad we learn to befriend." We who have lived for years in slavery, whose country and people have been denied the blessings of free self-government for hundreds of years, can speak with authority, can speak from experience of the aimless existence, the living death endured by the human soul when its aspirations, its ideals, are checked by the cage of foreign government, by the loss of liberty; and therefore can we understand the apparent madness of the Boers in still continuing a hopeless contest, or rather what is termed a hopeless contest; for I deem it impossible that such heroic bravery, such dauntless perseverance in the cause of justice, in the fight for home and kindred, should not, by God's aid, finally succeed. Have Englishmen no justice, no charity, no mercy in their breasts? Can they not look with unprejudiced eyes on the spectacle presented to the world in South Africa to-day? On one side you have, or rather you had seventeen months ago, 30,000 peasant farmers, with limited resources, with no means of supplying the places of those who fall in battle, giving their lives, dying to the last man, fighting against unheard-of odds, fighting with madness, with desperation, for the liberty and homes they love. You see the mother willingly send forth, never to be seen more, the husband and the sons she loves, with the old Roman words at parting, "Come back with your shield, or on it." On the other side—and I do not wish to say this in any offensive spirit—you have a trained and disciplined army of 300,000 men, with unlimited supplies of men, stores, arms, and ammunition to draw from, fighting, not for home, not for liberty, not for any great human cause, but rather for the basest of human motives—the acquisition of land whose gold made it too valuable to remain in the possession of a weak nation, the destruction of a race whose valour and patriotism will resound through future ages as the one bright spot in the closing years of this commercial nineteenth century. Is this the way you intend to bring about peace? Have you brought peace to Ireland, where for hundreds of years the only treatment we have got has been government by coercion? You may exterminate us, you may crush us, but still we live and are prepared to fight for freedom and our homes. It was an English poet who wrote—

> "Slaves cannot breathe in England: if their lungs
> Receive our air, that moment they are free;
> They touch our country, and their shackles fall."

I would like hon. Gentlemen opposite to take these words to heart, and try to understand that they are not upholding that tradition. Has the God of justice, of charity, but of retribution, been superseded in your mighty Empire, flushed as it is with the pride of success, by the god of iniquity and unrighteousness? Beware lest you are now disregarding an opportunity of retrieving your lost fame. Beware lest in your endeavour to crush out disaffection in South Africa by cold-blooded murder you are sowing the seeds of another Ireland 7,000 miles away from your shores. I would also ask Englishmen to remember that they have not yet conquered, and that perhaps in the exigencies of the situation they may soon find sufficient employment for their bellicose tendencies in other lands. Ah, even at this late hour, when your thirst for blood has been satisfied, will you not refrain from crushing, by pure weight of numbers, the brave remnant who are prepared to die to the last man before they surrender; will you continue to murder—for such I call it—the men who, despite your opportunities, were infinitely superior to you in the arts of war, and who undoubtedly have been the means of bringing radical changes in your Army, and thus perhaps saving you from that destruction which would have followed had you in your arrogance engaged in a European war before this. Is the spirit of justice, of fair-play, of charity, dead within the breasts of Englishmen? Do they seriously glory in the murder—for such it must be called—going on in their name in South Africa to-day? Are all appeals, except those of the leaden bullet, to be disregarded? Now, even now, we appeal for magnanimity, for justice. We ask you to send the angel of peace to those brave men dying for honour, for liberty, and for home. Shall the words of the poet still continue to apply to you—

> "Truth for ever on the scaffold, Wrong for ever on the throne,
> Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown
> Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above His own."

CHINA—PRESENT POSITION AND POLICY.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I do not apologise for venturing to bring before the House a subject different from that which has interested hon. Members to-night hitherto. I mean the question of China and our relations with that country and the other Great Powers. I had the opportunity of listening to an important discussion which took place this afternoon in another place, and I found that the general view of the leaders of the party opposite was, that a debate on China was not only necessary but imperative. It was admitted that Parliament and the country had the right to the fullest information on this vital question, and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs thanked his political opponents for their forbearance in postponing to so late a date discussion upon it. Another reason I have for asking the attention of the House to the affairs of China at the present stage is that in the critical position which prevails in the far East at the present moment His Majesty's Government have an opportunity of acting with, I trust, permanent effect. There can be little doubt that the Russian Government is now pressing upon China a Convention which, if signed, would give our great rival in the Far East very important advantages over this country in regard to political power and commerce in the north-eastern portion of China. I hold that it is equally clear from all the facts that have come under our notice that His Majesty's Government at this moment hold the key of the position, and if they are prepared to assure China of their support in resisting the most unreasonable demands of Russia, that Convention will not be signed, and a serious check will be offered to Russian aggression in the Far East. I venture to say that our position in China, and the encroachment of other Powers in that country, constitute at this moment a far graver crisis and are of infinitely more importance to this country than the South African question has ever presented. However great the mistakes that have been made in South Africa by the Government—and they have been truly colossal—there was always this satisfaction to those who desired the ultimate triumph of the Briton in South Africa—the position in that country was never out of our control. The war in South Africa has cost us five times as much money as was necessary, and ten times as many human lives as were necessary, but we have never lost control of the position; we have never been in the presence of *force majeure.* The same cannot be said in regard to the Far East. We are there in the presence of the greatest possible danger, and when hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House, and perhaps some on my own side, are disposed to accuse those who feel with me of exciting a warlike feeling, and rousing irritation in other States, I would beg their attention to this fact, that if what we said ten or fifteen years ago had been listened to in regard to South Africa, the troubles there would have been settled at a tenth of the cost now being expended.

The present phase of the Chinese crisis is perhaps the last opportunity that will ever be offered to this country of dealing with this tremendous question victoriously for England. When Russia once obtains political and military control in Manchuria, and when the Trans-Siberian railway is completed, by which Russia can throw immense stores of munitions and hundreds of thousands of troops into Manchuria, we shall find ourselves in presence of that *force majeure* which it will be impossible to deal with. Therefore it is the bounden duty of those who wish to see the territorial integrity of China preserved, and British commerce there maintained and increased, to do what they can to bring pressure on the Government, and to rouse the country to the dangers that exist. Our trade in China amounts to 64 per cent. of the foreign trade of the country, and British shipping amounts to 84 per cent. of the foreign shipping which carries foreign commerce to China. That country, with its 400 millions of population and great natural wealth, offers boundless openings for British commerce in the future. It is not only the question of China that is at stake; it is the question of the future of Asia; and with Asia goes our Indian Empire. I would try to rivet the attention of the House on the danger of Russia obtaining control of even one province of China. If Russia gets possession of Manchuria, with its twelve millions of people, she would be able to form there a large, well-equipped, and well-drilled Chinese army, armed and disciplined, and led by Russian officers, which would enable her, step by step, to overrun absolutely the whole of China and threaten our possessions in India. Against such an army we would be perfectly powerless, and even the whole of Europe would be powerless.

The history of the last seven years has, I regret to say, been one series of the most inconceivable blunders in regard to our policy in the Far East. First of all, we allowed the Japanese to be driven out of Port Arthur. That was a stupid and cowardly blunder. I believe that Lord Rosebery was opposed to it, but was overborne by his colleagues in the Cabinet. The Japanese were our natural allies in the Far East, and so long as they were in the Lao Tung peninsula we had no reason to fear. Then we come to the year 1898, which brought disasters in every part of the globe to this country. Fortunately that policy has been reversed and we are now in a better position. The second great blunder in our Far Eastern policy was the withdrawal of our ships from Port Arthur by the Ministry now in power. That was not quite as bad as the first blunder, but it was pitiable beyond description. It will be seen that I am impartial in my criticism. I regret that the First Lord of the Treasury is not present, because I would have called his attention to that unfortunate speech of his at Manchester in which he invited Russia to occupy Port Arthur. That was one of the most mischievous observations ever made in this country. It is no secret that the Leader of the House has adopted a very Gallio-like attitude in regard to foreign affairs, though I am glad to know that he is getting rid of it. Then came the Boxer movement, which was undoubtedly stirred up by Russian agents. It was exceedingly like the agitations carried on in Bulgaria and Armenia. There was the working of a corrupt coterie in China in the supposed interests of the people. There were wholesale terrorising and brutal outrages of every kind. Then we come to the most extraordinary blunder of the Government, the Concert of Europe, which to me is the most preposterous fiction ever palmed off on an ignorant public. The idea that there can be a genuine Concert of Europe is to place far too great a strain on the imagination of intelligent persons. To some, the Concert of Europe is a delightful sound, and I am prepared to admit that it has misled considerable numbers of the Members of this House. But the Concert of Europe as practised in China has been the most wicked, cruel, and disastrous failure that any Government has put before the country. It has resulted in losing our prestige in China, in weakening our power very seriously, and has led to squabbles and disputes of the most dangerous kind between the Great Powers. So serious were these, that the whole time of the Governments of Europe, the Ambassadors, and the Commanders on the spot, has been exhausted in trying to prevent the Concert from coming to blows within itself. In regard to China, this Concert of Europe has been practically a besom of destruction. The looting and massacring carried on by the troops of the so-called Concert is a disgrace to humanity and a scandal to civilisation. Nothing like it has been seen since the days of Attila and Genghis Khan — 50,000, some say 100,000, Chinese were deliberately massacred by the Russian authorities in Manchuria. I have accounts of the most horrible character by persons who were eye-witnesses of these scenes. The great majority of the victims were not fighting men at all, but perfectly harmless men, women, and children. They were driven into the river or bayonetted on the bank and then cast into the river. The river was so choked that the steamers coming up the Amur had difficulty in forcing a passage through the great mass of human corpses. The scenes that occurred between Tientsin and Peking were in many cases not much more creditable to the European troops. I am glad to say that our own troops as well as the Americans and Germans are free from any serious complicity in the atrocities committed there. The Government for a long time tried to defend this fiction of theirs—it was not a fiction of theirs but of Mr. Gladstone's —the fiction of the Concert of Europe, but I fancy we shall not hear much more about it, because the Government have shown by their own action that the Concert of Europe is a farce. Having allowed or invited the Great Powers to go into China, they found the position so hopeless that they have now been obliged to do that which they ought to have done at first, make an alliance with a Power on which they could rely. The agreement with Germany is a conclusive condemnation of the Concert of Europe. By that agreement they bound themselves to preserve the integrity of China; others have joined them, notably Japan, in that policy. It was sensible and practical to ally ourselves with those Powers whose interests are identical with ours, and those Powers whose word we can trust. It was the policy of Lord Beaconsfield in 1878, when he saved Constantinople and gratified Europe. It was followed in 1885, on the collapse of Mr. Gladstone's Government; it has been resuscitated in 1898, and has given us our South African Possessions; and if we use it properly we shall be able to settle the Chinese question. The Concert of Europe has for us been disastrous in every respect. Our prestige has been lowered before the Chinese and our Indian troops, and I am afraid that one of the results will be that the Chinese will have an undying hatred of Europe and of this country, which has been allied with the forces which have inflicted such great cruelties upon them. Russia has been aggrandised and our prestige lowered. The Russians have marched at the head of the allied troops through Peking. We have had repeated insults levelled at our troops, our officers, and our flag; the seizure of railways in the most flagrant and unjustifiable way; the occupation of Niu-chwang in spite of the protests of every foreign consul; agreements with regard to Manchuria made behind our backs; the sudden evacuation of Peking proposed by Russia, and carried out by Russian troops in face of the so-called Concert of Europe; the refusal of the Russian Minister to demand the death punishment of local Chinese officials who had been guilty of such gross cruelty, and of the murder of our missionaries; and all this has been done with a motive, because the Russian Minister promised the Chinese Government that if they supported Russia with regard to Manchuria, he would abstain from demanding the death punishment of these Chinese criminals, and would even demand their release by the Great Powers. Those are the points on which we have had loss during the continuation of the recent policy in China.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett.

Now I come to the questions which are at this moment agitating China, and upon which our future position in China depends. I mean the agreement or agreements which are now being negotiated with regard to Manchuria and the adjoining provinces. Although I listened with great interest to the speech in another place of the noble Lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, I am bound to say I could not get any indication from his words as to what was the policy of the

Government. In one sentence he made a reassuring statement, and in the next statements of a most alarming character. I do not wish to pass any criticism upon Lord Lansdowne in this matter. He combines the quality of courtesy with that of backbone, which is most necessary for dealing with this question, and it would be unfair to blame him for the present position of affairs. I do not wish to derive any dark conclusion from what he said. I desire to look at the facts as they are. One phrase of the noble Lord struck me very much. He said we must look to principles and not to details, and that we should be satisfied if we secured the principle even if the details went against us. That is exactly what we should not be satisfied with. It is the details which count in this matter. It is the practical, material position that is a force in China which counts for prestige in the future. We heard a good deal about principles in general two years ago. We were told of free trade in China. We see little of it now; but in its place we see Russia holding forts at Port Arthur, and controlling the whole of the province of Manchuria, throwing out railways in all directions—those are details. We heard a great deal about principles and the promise of China never to alienate the Yang-tsze Valley. Of course she will not do so if she can help it. If such a promise had been given by Russia or some other Great Power it might have been worth something, but given by China it is worth nothing, and we see ourselves losing our power and all our advantages in northern China, and having no compensating advantages in the Yangtsze Valley. Those are illustrations of the importance of detail. It is, I know, a favourite view upon the part of men who are indisposed to take action, that the question of Manchuria is hopeless; that Manchuria is lost. Manchuria is lost; Pechili is lost; Northern China is lost; the Yang-tsze Valley is lost; and Asia is lost, if the policy of the last seven years is followed by the Government. But the position is not hopeless; the position is full of encouragement if the Government will only recognise a policy of firm and consistent action. The right hon. Gentleman might rise in his place and say, "Do I want to put upon this country a Russian war on the top of the war in South Africa?" But there is no necessity for any war in this case. We need not send a single soldier to the Far East. We have the game entirely in our own hands if we will only use the materials which lie before us. We have a natural and most valuable ally in the Far East, we have the great and rising nation of Japan, whose people bear the same relation to Asia as we do to Europe. A rising, brave, intelligent, and patriotic people, who are most anxious to be used, and we have only to use them, and we need fear nothing from the extremest exertion of Russian power.

The time has come for plain speaking in this matter. Russia respects nothing but force. That has been proved by all the nations in the last four years, and if any hon. Member doubts it I invite him to read the Blue-book containing most interesting statements in regard to not only China, but the Russian policy upon the whole question of China—No. 1, 1888. C.1114. Let anybody read about Port Arthur, how it was to be a port for winter occupation only, how within three months it was annexed, and he will find that Russia respects nothing but force. The time has come to show what this country can do. We have only to use Japan to be master of the situation. We have only to promise Japan that we will hold the ring, and the whole matter is settled. There would be no war even between Russia and Japan, because Russia knows how to respect superior force, and she will recognise that she is in the power of a superior force, and there will be no disturbance of the equilibrium. I express that view to the Government. I do not expect them to tell us they are going to adopt any such policy. I do not expect them to tell us what the truth is with regard to the Convention which Russia is now trying to force from China. We know what that convention is from the disclosures made by the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, and discussion upon this subject would be incomplete without a tribute being paid to that intelligent and most capable gentleman for the inestimable services he has been able to render to us and to our Imperial interests abroad. We understand that the terms originally demanded have now, to a certain extent, been modified.

Russia has ceased to claim control over provinces like Mongolia and Turkestan, and some alterations have been accepted by the Government at St. Petersburg, but the basis of the objectionable proposals still remains intact. Russia is still to have control of all railways, customs, and concessions in Manchuria, and if that is once accepted by this country the fall of China and British commerce and British politics in the Far East is settled for all time.

There is, in addition to the points I have mentioned one point worthy of the consideration and attention of the Government, and that is that this encroachment on the part of the Russian Government has raised a strong feeling of resentment among the intelligent masses, so far as there are intelligent masses, in China. Remarkable information has come to this country of late, to the effect that all the intelligent classes in Central and Southern China are uniting to impress on the Imperial Government resistance to and refusal of Russian demands. The Secretary of State to-night, in another place, paid a great tribute to the services which had been rendered to China, to British interests, and the cause of civilisation by those two eminent men, the Yang-tsze viceroys. It is impossible to speak too highly of them when we consider that through what they have urged they have earned the enmity not only of the Manchu officials, but [of the Russian Government, because it must not be forgotten that Russia is perfectly well aware that her only hope of success in China is to maintain the Chinese Government in as corrupt a condition as possible, and to keep China in the same rotten condition for which Russia is responsible, as for the last thirty years the Ottoman Empire has been kept. That is a point worthy of notice.

The Government will, it is to be hoped, maintain these viceroys in the position they have taken up, but they will find their work cut out for them unless they put a stop to this Agreement at Peking. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs made a statement to the effect that it is not the business of His Majesty's Government to support the cause of internal reform in China.

Every statement of that kind, that we are not deeply interested in the cause of reform in China, is a mistake. We may not wish to support it, but we shoud not tell the world so; we should rather try and make the people believe we are willing and anxious to uphold their cause. But perhaps I may have taken the noble Lord's words too seriously. I trust the Government will not take a despairing view of their opportunities, and if in the future of Northern China or Manchuria there may be some difficulties with regard to the Anglo-German Agreement, they will not be more than can be easily overcome. Although Germany may not have included Manchuria in the scope of the Agreement, she is bound, as much as we are, to uphold the integrity of China. The situation is not hopeless, and if the Government grapple with it with a firm hand for a few months the position will be restored. Russia is engaged in a great game of bluff against this country, but right hon. Gentlemen on the Government Bench hold all the cards in their hands if they will only play them. There is no necessity for war, but there is great necessity for action being taken; and if it is known all over the world that we are prepared to take action, if we take the lead firmly and clearly, as we have a right to do, and as we are bound to do, the great majority of the Powers will follow us. We shall have not only civilisation and humanity on our side, but, what is of more importance, force. Therefore I beg the Government not to temporise, but to act at once, and firmly press these tremendous British interests now at stake. The future of China, over 400,000,000 of people, will be assured if only the Government will act in a way worthy of the party and the great traditions it represents.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W. R., Barnsley) did not think that there was any difference of opinion as to the policy which the Government ought to pursue in the present crisis in the Far East. That policy had been declared again and again to be the preservation of the integrity of the Chinese Empire and the equal opportunity for all nations to trade there. There was reason, he thought, to complain of undue reticence on the part of the Government—they had not answered questions put in the House in as full and complete a manner as they ought to have done. It was to be regretted that the Government had not, having regard to the great public interest in this matter, done as was done by Count von Bülow and the President of the United States, both of whom had taken the opportunity of stating in the most definite manner the policy they intended to pursue in the Far East; but he hoped that what had taken place and the statement the House would have that night from the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would constitute an adequate departure from that policy of reticence. It was only reasonable, having regard to the state of affairs in China, that this opportunity should be taken to have a reasonable discussion, and the Government should state to the House the progress they were making in the settlement of the crisis and the success attending it. The various agreements entered into behind the back of the Chinese Government interfered with the settlement of the present crisis. In the Agreement with Russia, under which the railway rights north of the Great Wall were conceded to her, whilst she conceded similar rights to us in the Yang-tsze Valley, we did not stipulate for British goods to be carried over those railways at equal rates of carriage. The Anglo-German Agreement stated distinctly that its object was the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China and of the open door for trade throughout the whole Chinese Empire. It stated that—

> "It is a matter of joint and permanent international interest that the ports on the rivers and littoral of China should remain free and open to trade, and to every other legitimate form of economic activity for the nations of all countries without distinction; and the two Governments agree on their part to uphold the same for all Chinese territory as far as they can exercise influence."

But was Japan informed, when her consent was sought, that Germany declined to recognise the Agreement as applying to Manchuria, or were the other Powers of the Concert informed? A most emphatic statement had been made by Japan that she understood it to mean what it said, and that it applied to the whole of the Chinese Empire. If the Agreement had any utility, the time had arrived when we, who initiated the Agreement, ought to ascertain what action the other Powers who were parties to the Agreement were prepared to take in view of the serious infringement which was threatened by the new Manchurian Convention.

What was the policy of Russia? In August she made a declaration of her policy, which was the maintenance of the former State organisation in China, the removal of all that could lead to a partition of the Chinese Empire, and the re-establishment of a Government able to preserve order and tranquillity in the country. And she further said that the measures taken by her were in no sense to be regarded as indicating an independent plan, which she affirmed was completely foreign to the policy of the Imperial Government. She also stated when giving a qualified assent to the Anglo-German Agreement that she had been the first to lay down the integrity of the Chinese Empire as a fundamental part of her policy. Therefore all the world had apparently agreed to preserve the international integrity of China. On the 28th February the Under Secretary stated "that His Majesty's Government had the assurance of the Russian Government that the guarantee that they would require from China in respect of Manchuria would not take the form of an acquisition of territory, or a virtual or actual protectorate in Manchuria." The right hon. Gentleman had further stated a few days previously in reply to a question that the Russian Government had repeatedly declared their intentions to respect the integrity of China, and that His Majesty's Government were not aware that they had infringed it; and that His Majesty's Government had been informed by the Russian Government that they had no intention of withdrawing their co-operation with the other Powers in the affairs of China. All those declarations were satisfactory on the face of them, and it would appear to be difficult to discover where danger underlay them, but when they turned to the terms of the new Russian Convention—which included the disbanding of the Chinese Army, the razing of fortifications, the creation of an army without the consent of Russia forbidden; importation of arms and ammunition into Manchuria prohibited; refusal of advantages as to mines, railways, or other matters in the Russo-Chinese frontier provinces—Manchuria, Mongolia, Chinese Turkestan—including Kashgar, Yarkand and Khotan, right down to the borders of Thibet to other Powers; the Chinese debarred from constructing their own railways without the consent of Russia, and the right of Russia to construct a railway from the Manchurian railway towards Peking and the Great Wall—His Majesty's Government admitted that if the reported version of that Convention was correct, it was derogatory to treaty rights, and extended far beyond Manchuria. It was incumbent on the Government, therefore, in view of the destruction of treaty rights in the great regions of Central Asia and in the interests of the commercial future of this country, to take care that no Agreement was sanctioned to our detriment and in violation of our treaty rights with China. We could not afford to have a great neutral market like China invaded by great protectionist Powers like Russia, Germany, and France, which would inevitably be followed by protective tariffs excluding to a large extent British goods. At this moment Russia, France, Germany, and Belgium were all engaged in laying down railways and occupying the Chinese Empire, and stipulating in all their contracts that the materials and rolling stock should be drawn exclusively from the country of the concessionaires to the exclusion of the British trader and manufacturer.

The country was face to face probably with a cycle of trade depression, and therefore he wished to point out how very little attention the country had paid to the danger incurred in not upholding our commercial interests in the Far East. A great deal more attention would have to be given to them in the near future if British trade and commerce were to be maintained. Many hon. Members would have expected that the Government would have been able to give some information as to the terms of the new Chinese-Russian Convention, but apparently the Government had no positive information with regard to it. What course did the Government propose to take? The only possible course to pursue was to put themselves, not individually, but collectively with the other Powers, into communication with the Chinese Government and bring about a practical agreement to preserve their mutual interests. Surely if the Great Powers of Europe stood together with the United States and Japan it would solve the question affecting China. There were other questions, some of which it was unnecessary to dwell upon, having regard to the lateness of the hour. There should be increased facilities for trade and the complete opening up of the immense waterways of China. There should be also a rearrangement of commercial treaties, and included in that arrangement should be the abolition of likin dues. But in addition to those there were other questions which ought to be the subject of friendly negotiation and settlement between this country and Russia. If a different policy had been adopted at an earlier stage the Tientsin incident might in all probability have been averted. The duty of the British forces, next to relieving the Legations in Peking, was that they should protect British property. He recognised the difficulties caused by having 200,000 men locked up in South Africa, but our naval forces in Chinese waters were for a long time only third in point of strength. If the railway from Tientsin to Neu-chwang, which was seized by Russia, had been occupied at various points by our bluejackets it never need have passed under the control of Russia. What was the Tientsin incident? The allied troops had been victorious over the Chinese, and Russia yet said that she retained this ground by right of conquest. There was no right of conquest in the matter, and when that claim failed she said she had a concession signed by Li Hung Chang, but if that were so it was very doubtful if it had the sanction of the Chinese Government. That was a subject for negotiation, and he hoped in the settlement British interests would be fully upheld; but in the settlement of that question, why should not other questions be settled with Russia in a friendly way? Russia still retained possession of that part of the Northern Chinese railway from Shanhai-Kwan to Neu-chwang. The earnings of this railway had been allocated by the Chinese Government as security for British bondholders. He would like to know whether the assurances that the Russian occupation was temporary were written or verbal, and whether Russia might not be asked whether the time had not arrived when the military necessity that she should control the line had ceased to exist, and whether it ought not now to be given up to its rightful owners. There was the question of the administration of Niu-chwang. We had been told that there was no wish on the part of His Majesty's Government to exaggerate the importance of our interests in Manchuria or at Niu-chwang. We did, however, a trade of three millions sterling a year through Niu-chwang, and at the back of Niu-chwang there was the magnificent country of Manchuria—400,000 square miles. Manchuria had enormous possibilities of expansion and development. The maintenance of the just treaty rights of this country was a matter of importance. Referring to the objection raised by Russia to the expedition to the Elliott Islands, he urged that a claim put forth through such an extent of water would give Russia control over the entrance to the Gulf of Pechili, and he desired to have an assurance that the Government intended to resist the pretension of Russia to own those waters. There was also the dismissal of Mr. McLeavy Brown from his post in Korea. A similar thing happened in 1897, and he hoped the Government would do as they did in 1897—resist the demand which had been put forward.

There was another matter to which he wished to refer, namely, the remodelling of our consular system. He had received from British consuls in the Far East great hospitality and great kindness, and he was very much disinclined to say one word which would be derogatory to them. But he was bound to say that the general impression he obtained after having come into contact with the consuls of the United States, Germany and Japan was that, while they made it their main work to push the trade of their respective countries, British consuls seemed to make their judicial and diplomatic functions their main work, and to consider the question of pushing British trade as somewhat beneath them. If we were to hold our own in competition with other nations, who were competing with us more effectually than ever, it was absolutely necessary we should employ the same agencies in the shape of consuls, who would devote their energies to obtaining information and pushing trade as other consuls did. There was no doubt that the Chinese crisis, and especially the present phase of it, involved a problem of great importance to our country. They knew that the people of China were a most industrious commercial people. Commercially he believed they were the most honest people on the face of the earth. If China were developed in the next thirty years to the same extent as Japan had been developed during the last thirty years, there would be an increase in foreign trade of more than two hundred millions sterling a year, and if England only held anything approaching 60 per cent. of that increased trade, it would mean all the difference between commercial prosperity and commercial adversity. He hoped the House would have from the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a full and definite statement regarding the present situation in China and the policy the Government intended to pursue, such as the House and the country had a right to expect, and which, he believed, it would be the noble Lord's pleasure to give.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): When I understood the arrangement of the business for this evening I was inclined to congratulate myself that before I should have the honour of addressing the House a far abler tongue than mine would have given to the country the views of His Majesty's Government on all the departments of the Chinese question. I am not so sure that I congratulate myself now, because it appears from the speeches of my hon. friend and of the hon. Gentleman opposite that to some extent this debate is to be looked upon as a continuance of a debate in another place, and that, without the presence of my noble friend who made he speech, and without having the report of his remarks before us, comments are to be made on his utterances. I do not know that that is a particularly convenient arrangement, because it leads to considerable inaccuracy. My hon. friend, for instance, told the House just now that my noble friend in another place had declared against reform in China. I am confident he did no such thing.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I did not say that. I said the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had declared that the Government would not make it one of their principal policies in China.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON: I may be allowed to say that I carefully refrained from referring to various points raised in another place, on the very ground that I thought it would be unfair to anticipate the statement of the noble Lord.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I am much obliged to the hon. Gentleman. I am sure his intentions were admirable, but I am not quite sure that he did not refer indirectly to some of the statements made in another place. But my hon. friend told the House that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had discouraged, as it were, reform in China.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Hear, hear!

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I do not think so, and if the right hon. Baronet will look to-morrow at the report he will see that my noble friend was speaking of reform in China in connection with the question of fiscal reform, to which that particular portion of his speech was devoted. He had pointed out that fiscal reform was one of the things which the Powers had to place in the Identic Note which had been presented to China, that is to say, that it formed part of the programme which the Powers were intent upon compelling China to adopt. Then he went on to distinguish our attitude and that of other Powers on fiscal reform, and reform generally, and it will be abundantly clear to the House that nothing would be more rash than to have announced that part of the policy of the Government was that they intended to coerce China in the general reform of her administration, as distinguished from fiscal reform, the latter being evidently of international importance, instead of national importance, as is the former.

The speech of my hon. friend went back a long way into ancient history, into which he will not expect me to follow him. He discussed things which occurred many years ago, and he gradually worked his way down to the origin of the present crisis. To my hon. friend Russia is the author of all evil—nothing goes wrong in Europe or in the world but Russia is at the bottom of it. In my opinion, as far as my limited opportunity of acquainting myself with the subject extends, the Boxer movement cannot be said to have been due to Russia. The Boxer movement was a very remarkable one, because it took by surprise all those who knew China best. In its nature it consisted partly of a religious movement and partly of a national movement; and it suddenly grew, with quite unexpected force and vigour, and swept over the country. As far as the external action of the other Powers was concerned, I do not pretend that a certain aggressive spirit which had shown itself among European nations had not something to do with it, but I do not think it would be fair to assign that to Russia, or to any other one Power, but rather to a great many. When my hon. friend speaks of Russia I wonder he does not think of the danger of using generalities. Russia may mean anything, from the Russian Emperor, the Russian Government, the Russian representative in China, down to some obscure colonel in command of a small body of Russian troops in a remote province; and there can be no greater mistake in estimating the action of Russia than to confuse these very dissimilar units. Recent experience has gone a long way to bear out the truth of this. The hon. Gentleman opposite reminds us of the question of the Northern Railway, and that furnishes an example of how pacific but firm representation and an appeal to the justice of the Russian Government meet with their reward. It is known now that, with regard to a large part of that railway, not the whole, but a large part—that part that is inside the Great Wall—the Russian Government have consented to surrender it, and have surrendered it to the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, who in turn handed it over to the British military authority. That is part of the railway, but I do not forget we have rights in the whole of the railway—rights founded on the fact that the railway was made by British enterprise and capital, under British management, and was solemnly secured in an international instrument as an addendum of the Anglo-Russian Convention. The rights we possess in that railway will not be forgotten by His Majesty's Government. The hon. Member opposite has asked me about the incident in reference to the Elliott Islands, and I do not know that I have anything to add to the answer I have given to this question. The incident occurred, as the hon. Member himself mentioned, owing to the fact that a British naval officer, detached to hunt down pirates in that part of the world, in the course of his duty put into one of the islands, and remonstrances were addressed to him, or rather I think to the Admiral Commanding-in-Chief, not by the Russian Government, but by the admiral on the spot. We have instructed our admiral that we know no reason why our treaty rights to enter any port in China should be disputed, and that, so far as we are concerned, no attention need be paid to the protest. The hon. Gentleman then addressed himself to the various conventions which exist between this country and other Powers in respect of China. I did not gather he objected to them. His objections consisted, as it seemed to me, in his opinion that they hardly went far enough. He spoke of the Anglo-Russian Railway Convention, to which I have referred, and he said it was a pity that it did not extend south of the Great Wall as well as north—or so I understood him. But I am not quite sure that I share that view. I recognise that in so far as it went it made for tranquillity and the avoidance of friction as between one Power and another, and anything that makes for tranquillity in China is for the benefit of British interests. My hon. friend knows perfectly well that the Agreement is bi-lateral.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: A most discreditable surrender.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: My hon. friend holds very strong opinions on this subject, I know, but I think I should get on with my speech better without his interjected observations. My hon. friend is aware the Agreement is bi-lateral in character. We recognise the geographical gravitation—that is the phrase used—which led to our abstention from interference with Russian railway enterprise south of the Wall, just as the same geographical gravitation led to Russian non-interference with our enterprise in the Yang-tsze basin. The Anglo-German Agreement has been referred to by the hon. Gentleman opposite. That Agreement consists of three clauses. The first embodies the principle of the open door, but is limited in the terms of the article to the rivers and littoral of China, and to that part of the Chinese Empire in which the particular Powers signing the Agreement have interests.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON: The words are "to uphold the same for all Chinese territory."

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: That is not the interpretation put on the document by either of the contracting parties. The rivers and ports of China are the parts of China to which it extends, and the whole Empire of China so far as the influence of the Powers signing the document goes. I am asked how I explain the German Chancellor's speech in reference to that article. He said in the first place—I do not pretend for a moment to embrace all he said—that, as far as Germany is concerned, that article does not include Manchuria. I presume that the German Chancellor thinks that Manchuria is not a place where Germany has influence. But it is fair to say that, at the time that instrument was being negotiated, so far as Article 1 was concerned the German Government gave us to understand that they did not consider that, for the purposes of Germany, their influence extended to Manchuria. As to Clause 2, which binds the Powers to direct their policy towards maintaining the integrity of the Chinese Empire, that, as I said the other day in answer to a question, is, in our opinion, without qualification. Whatever the interpretation the German Government may have put on that article, at any rate this can be said, that as a matter of fact they are pledged, and admit themselves pledged, and are glad they are pledged, to maintain the integrity of China by a hundred other documents besides the Anglo-German Agreement. The fact is, as the German Chancellor pointed out, the whole of China is a security for the money which the Chinese Government owes to the Powers of Europe, and in the opinion of His Majesty's Government and the German Government China has no right to part with a single acre of that which constitutes the security for so large a sum. With regard to Manchuria, as I have pointed out, we fully recognise the obligations upon us which the great interests of this country impose. I have mentioned the railways; but there are other interests, trade interests, in different parts, to which we are bound to have regard. I am asked by the hon. Gentleman whether we are in a position to communicate the text of the alleged Agreement between Russia and China to the House. We are not in a position to do so. No one regrets more than His Majesty's Government the atmosphere of mystery which has been thrown round that Agreement. We think it a pity. It has the disadvantage that many versions, more or less accurate, reach us from many different quarters, and it is exceedingly difficult to say what may be the accurate or final form which it has assumed. One thing I can say, and that is that to the best of our information neither the account of it given by my hon. friend, nor the account given by the hon. Gentleman opposite is accurate, though that does not carry us very much further.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Will you support China in refusing to sign it?

Viscount CRANBORNE: The line we have adopted is to inform the Chinese Government that, in our opinion, any surrender of territory on her part under an agreement of the kind suggested between herself and any one Power during the continuance of the present state of things in China would be a mistake dangerous to ourselves which we could not approve of. We have suggested that the proper course is to submit any such instrument to the representatives of the Powers at Peking. That is the policy of His Majesty's Government. That is the policy not only of His Majesty's Government, but also, as we understand, of the German Government and of several other Governments; and I think it is quite as good a policy, indeed a far better one than that indicated in the reckless observation which has just been addressed to the House by my hon. friend. I know my hon. friend takes a very gloomy view of the future position of this country in Asia.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: No, no.

Viscount CRANBORNE: He conceives that Russia is gradually absorbing everything, and I think he said that within three years she will have absorbed the whole of Mongolia and will have threatened India.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: No; I said nothing of the sort.

Viscount CRANBORNE: Well, I think if Russia's capacity and desire to pursue such a policy was anything like that which is described by my hon. friend we might indeed despair; but I confess I form no such opinion of Russia's intentions, and no such opinion of our want of strength, supposing any such thing were possible, to resist a danger of that kind. He attributes all our misfortunes to the Concert of Europe. Sir, the Concert is not perfect as an international instrument. I do not think that any of us on this side of the House have ever pretended that it was. I do not say that it was the most perfect method of addressing ourselves to the solution of the Chinese crisis, but I say that it was essential, that there was no other means of solving the crisis. The injury which had been inflicted by China was an international injury—an injury to all the Powers alike by assailing them in the persons of their representatives—and, of course, it was a matter of common interest and common obligation to vindicate our honour there and to take the necessary steps to prevent any such catastrophe ever happening again. But I quite admit that the Concert is very slow, and that its success depends upon the cordial working of it by all its members, and that it is in the power of any of the members of the Concert to make its future progress very difficult, or, indeed, impossible. For my part, as I have already said, we are not prepared in any way to abandon it. Indeed, the very policy I have described, of suggesting to the Chinese Government the propriety of referring any agreement of the kind which is alleged to have been made to the representatives of the Powers, is another example of the working of the Powers in concert.

I am not able to touch upon every point which has been raised by the two hon. Gentlemen who have addressed the House, but I hope it will not be thought that where I have not corrected them I have admitted the accuracy of all that has been said. I do not admit, for instance, that the "open door" has been in any way injured by Russia. I do not admit that insults have been hurled at our officers and soldiers, except, of course, in a few cases between private soldiers in China. Nor do I admit that in the action we have taken in regard to the port of Neu-chwang we have anything whatever to be ashamed of. It is quite true that Russia continues to occupy Neu-chwang and the railway that leads to Neu-chwang. But in the course of the pacification of China undoubtedly the Russian troops advanced from that direction and used that railway. That was her field of operation—Neu-chwang came within it, and it is not surprising that she occupied it. So long as that is a temporary occupation we have nothing to say against it, and the attitude of our representative at Neu-chwang seems to have been a thoroughly proper one, which deserved and has received our full support. The fact is that I do not share the view of my hon. friend that the prestige of Great Britain in the East is a thing of the past, or that it has been seriously impaired. Depend upon it, prestige is not a matter of display and ostentation. Prestige really depends upon what is real and what is essential. What makes our power in the East is not that we are ostentatious, but the consciousness of those with whom we have to deal that there is a great power behind us. And there are also great moral qualities which make us powerful in the East—our tolerance, our fair dealing, our sense of justice, and our business capacity. All these things have told in the past in China, and they remain as powerful as ever. For my part, having taken some trouble to inform myself on the matter, I do not believe in the least in this great degradation of British influence in China. So long as our countrymen retain those great qualities which have served them so well in so many different Oriental countries, so long shall I believe and continue to believe in the continuance of British power and British influence. I have done my best to answer the questions put to me, and I believe that in China, as elsewhere, the Government deserve and enjoy the confidence of the country and of the House of Commons.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): I join in the debate at this hour, not at all with any desire to inflict a long speech on the House, but rather, if I may be allowed, to point out certain reasons which occur to me for thinking that a long debate on the details of the Chinese question to-night may not perhaps be considered altogether to be in place or to be very desirable. It is within our knowledge that a very important statement has been made in another place on the whole Chinese question, and I feel quite certain that I am expressing the view, not only of hon. Members who sit immediately near me, but of the House in general, when I say that whatever complaint there may have been the other day in regard to the action, or rather the silence, of the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, we are all agreed that he has to-night made a full statement, and that he has fully respected the rights of the House of Commons to be fully informed about foreign affairs. I think we must also feel that the noble Lord has been at some disadvantage to-night, because this discussion began at a very late hour, and he himself had to rise after others had addressed the House.

Take first of all the speech of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division. I am bound to say that it seems to me that I have heard it as far back as 1884. The hon. Member as usual told us that the great errer of all foreign policy has been that his advice has not been adopted, and that his advice to successive Governments has been that there should be an Anglo-German Alliance. He seems to think that alliances are to be got simply and solely by saying that a particular alliance would be convenient to the country, and that, therefore, it could be at once entered upon. Has not the hon. Member ever heard of the able and interesting speech of the German Minister in the Prussian Parliament, in which he warned those whom he addressed that Germany was not going to enter into alliances for the goodwill, pleasure, and advantage of other countries, but only exactly as far as they suited German interests? The hon. Member is aware that an alliance with Germany cannot be made simply because we say it would be convenient to us. The hon. Member has now added to his own recommendation with regard to a German alliance by saying that we have simply to proclaim that we want a Japanese alliance and that the Japanese will say: "Of course; let us frame it." The hon. Member appears to be the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs. Perhaps he would like to address the House from the bar as representing the Japanese Government. Then the hon. Member said: "Send the Fleet into Japanese and Chinese waters." He said that by sending the Fleet to the Gulf of Pechili—

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I said nothing of the kind.

Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE: I must congratulate the hon. Member that he did not repeat his former declaration about sending the Fleet to the coast of Poland.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I never said that either. I may as well kill, I hope once for all, one of the most monstrous fables ever spread about an unfortunate Member of this House, by stating that the story which was circulated by the noble Lord and Members like him was inaccurately attributed to me by the late Mr. Gladstone. I never said anything of the sort.

Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE: My recollection is that the hon. Member in former days did want to send the British fleet to the coast of Poland, and that when it was pointed out to him that Poland did not possess a coast he rushed into the columns of the press with the statement that Poland formerly had a sea coast, and that what he meant was that the fleet should be sent into the Baltic. I congratulate the hon. Member that he has on this occasion made a recommendation which at any rate is within the range of physical possibility.

It is pleasant to pass from the rather exaggerated views of the hon. Member on foreign policy, which he is never weary of inflicting on the House, to the clear and able statement, made from intimate knowledge of China, of my hon. friend the Member for Barnsley. My hon. friend pointed out to the House that the policy which this country ought to aim at in China was to maintain all our commercial rights. We have had in the statement of the noble Lord a very clear allusion to that part of the negotiations which have been going on. I think I may certainly say on behalf of hon. Members on this side that we shall approach everything that has fallen from the noble Lord and from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in another place in the spirit which at a grave moment like this they fully deserve. We desire that no single word shall fall from any of us which might complicate the position of the Government, which we all feel is one of very great difficulty in this matter. I would, however, venture to urge on the Government that there are two points on which we desire to be fully enlightened, namely, what the position is in regard to Manchuria, in respect, in the first place, to the maintenance of our general rights under existing treaties, and secondly, in respect to what I might call our particular rights in regard to the railway which has been more than once mentioned in the debate. Subject to that observation, I will only say that I believe the feeling on this side of the House is that the Government ought carefully to abstain from pursuing any policy which would appear to assume that it was a matter of grave danger to this country if certain rights were acquired by Russia in Manchuria. We have interests there—commercial interests, not military or political interests. We desire to maintain the policy of what is called the "open door," and if that can be maintained we will be the very first to acknowledge that the foreign policy of the Government has been successful, because, after all, on these matters, we desire to support the Government of the country as far as we possibly can. We ought never to look upon these great questions of foreign affairs from the point of view of party, because these are essentially questions regarding which party considerations should as far as possible be put into the background. There is, however, another point which has been mentioned, and which I must distinguish from the question of Manchuria. I mean the question whether Russia has or has not obtained large rights in what is called Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan, which is a far larger area than Manchuria, although it may look small on maps of a certain scale.

These are the points which I venture to place before the House, but I recur to the point from which I started, namely, that we are yet hardly in a position to enter on a detailed discussion of what has been said by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in another place, or to embark on those large views of foreign policy in which the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division always rejoices. He says alliances are so simple, but I would remind him of what was said to Owen Glendower, according to Shakespeare, when he said he would call spirits from the vasty deep. Percy replied—I am struck by the fact that I now see a Percy sitting behind the hon. Member—" But will they come ? " I would recommend the hon. Member to consult the noble Lord behind him, who has travelled experience, and ask him whether he thinks the hon. Member's views of foreign policy are possible, or whether the views of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in another place and of the Under Secretary in this House are not saner views to follow.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): May I venture to appeal to the House now to bring this debate to a close ? We have had two interesting debates on the Second and Third Readings of the Appropriation Bill, and I must also remind hon. Members that the Speaker and the officials of the House have to be here at an early hour to-morrow in order to get through the financial business within the legal period.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): In view of the fact that for some time past I have put a number of questions to the noble Lord on the matter of Manchuria and the action of Russia without obtaining any direct answer, I think I am entitled to take this, the only opportunity I shall have, of repeating my questions and of emphasising the indecision of the speech of the noble Lord upon the matter. It is another illustration of the disadvantage under which this House labours in not having the Foreign Secretary here, that we should be all aware that a speech has been delivered by that Minister in another place this afternoon upon this subject, of the substance of which we must remain in more or less ignorance until to-morrow. The noble Lord did not give us clearly to understand whether or not the German Government are in accord with the action of His Majesty's Government in Manchuria. He told us that the first article of the Anglo-German Agreement was understood to extend to Manchuria, but that the second article, which had reference to the Chinese Empire generally, would naturally include Manchuria. The House of Commons and the country have a right to know which it is. Is it a fact that the German Chancellor has strongly declared that no Agreement with this country binds Germany to object to the outrages of Russia in China ? The noble Lord has put off replying to the question again and again, as though he is desirous of hiding the fact that the German Chancellor has made that statement. There is something mysterious about the whole matter. The fact of the matter is that the Anglo-German Agreement does not include Manchuria, and the German Government are not prepared to take action with this country in opposition to Russia. That means that Russia is practically doing what she likes in China. The people of this country and of Europe generally want to know what is to be the attitude of the Government upon this question. With or without the support of Germany, are you or are you not going to take up an attitude of opposition to Russia's operations ? The indecision displayed by the Government goes to show that you are friendless in the matter, and that you have been unable to prevail upon Germany to make common cause with you against Russia. The speech of the noble Lord to-night was the weakest and lamest pronouncement the House of Commons has ever heard from an Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and it will be read to-morrow with amazement from one end of the country to the other. But the matter will not rest there. Sooner or later the Government and the people will have to face the question of whether Russia is to be allowed a free hand in Manchuria or not, and, if she is not, whether this country is prepared to take a strong stand in support of the integrity of the Chinese Empire. With regard to the general question, there is a growing feeling that the Governments of Europe are mainly responsible for the unfortunate development which has recently taken place. The Chinese people had been irritated and interfered with to an extent that no other people would have stood, and no grounds would have been given for the intervention of the allied Powers if the conduct of certain Europeans in China had not been of a thoroughly provocative character, which nobody could put up with. All this muddle is another illustration of the fact that it is dangerous and unjustifiable for Europeans to deal with the populations of Eastern countries upon the assumption that they are dealing with people who have European instincts, customs, and habits. There will never be a settlement in China until a different system is pursued, and Chinese customs and habits are respected.

MR. BELL (Derby): The matter I wish to bring forward is one affecting a large number of railway men in the country, but in deference to the wishes of the First Lord of the Treasury, if the matter may be raised upon the Adjournment on Tuesday, I am prepared to defer my remarks until then.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member would be quite in order on that occasion.

MR. BELL: Then I will reserve what I intended to say.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 167; Noes, 65. (Division List No. 109.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brights'de
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.

Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)

Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Smith,HC.(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wodehouse, Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Wortley, Rt.Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E)
Abraham, William (Rhondda.
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.

Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hobhouse,C.E.H. (Bristol,E.)
Holland, William Henry
Jones,William (Carnarvonsh.)
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John

O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 182; Noes, 47. (Division List No.110.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood,Capt SirAlex.F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George

Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.

Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V.C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J(Birm.
ChamberlainJ.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles

Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, William (Carnarvons.)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Long, Col Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
Middlemore, John Throgmort'n
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, Edw. J. G. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col Samuel Alex.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Smith, H. C (N'rth'mb. Tynes'de
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomas, J. A. (Glam'rg'n, Gow'r
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hayden, John Patrick
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (T'pper'ry Mid
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Adjourned at ten minutes before One of the clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 29th March, 1901.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended, Bill read 2^a (The Earl Waldegrave); Committee negatived; Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

COMMISSION.

The following Bill received the Royal Assent: Consolidated Fund (No. 1).

House adjourned during pleasure; and resumed.

APPEAL COMMITTEE.

First Report from; read, and agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—

Barry Railway.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided compliance with Standing Order No. 62 be proved before the Examiners.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings) Bill

ought to be dispensed with, provided that Tramways Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, and 11B be struck out of the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the

West and South London Junction Railway Bill [H.L.]

ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that the following clause be inserted:—

Nothing in this Act shall authorise the West and South London Junction Railway Company to enter upon, take, or use (except by agreement) any cellar or vault in or under any street belonging to or connected with any building, or the sub-soil under such cellar or vault, unless such cellar or vault or the building with which it is connected is described in the deposited Books of Reference.

Read, and agreed to.

BRISTOL, CLIFTON, AND WEST OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BILL [H.L.].

Reported without amendment.

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

Reported with amendments.

STRATTON AND BUDE IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn; the order made on the 8th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

WORCESTER TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

WARKWORTH HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

PORTMADOC, BEDDGELERT, AND SOUTH SNOWDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT) GAS BILL [H.L.].

WISBECH WATER BILL [H.L.].

HARPENDEN DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY BILL [H L.].

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH WESTERN AND ISLE OF WIGHT JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Dartrey be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee, in the place of the Earl of Lauderdale; and that the Earl of Dartrey be Chairman of the said Committee; read, and agreed to.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising—

1. The construction of light railways in the county of Lancaster, from Ormskirk to Southport;
2. The construction of a light railway in the county of Essex, between Kelvedon and River Blackwater;
3. The construction of light railways in the borough of Morley and the urban districts of Drighlington, Gildersome, and East and West Ardsley, in the West Riding of the county of York;
4. The construction of a light railway in the county of Kent, from Hollingbourn to Faversham;
5. The construction of light railways in the parishes of Hemsworth, Ackworth, and Badsworth, in the West Riding of the county of York;
6. The construction of a light railway in the county of Salop, from Cleobury Mortimer to Ditton Priors;
7. The deviation of a light railway authorised by the West Hartlepool Light Railways Order, 1897; and for other purposes.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

TRAMWAYS (CONSENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition against the Amendment of Standing Order No. 22, of Lewisham Corporation; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR STANDING COMMITTEES.

Report from, That the Committee have added The Lord Fairlie (*E. Glasgow*) to the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PAISLEY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1 ; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 29.)

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, which would otherwise expire during the adjournment of the House at Easter, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the recess.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (ROYAL INDIAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE).

Remodelling of course of instruction and retirement of certain of the professors and lecturers; Report of the Board of Visitors, dated 25th March, 1901, and Minutes of Evidence taken before them.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H. L.].

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: My Lords, I beg to move the insertion of the new clause standing in my name. This is an excellent Bill, because it is by way of bringing the prison laws of Scotland up to date. It contains several improvements which have been already adopted in the English Act; but there is one very important omission, inasmuch as there is no provision for the classification of prisoners. I understood the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland to say the other day that there was already a certain amount of classification of prisoners in Scotland. I have made inquiries, but have been unable to ascertain that that is the case. There certainly is differentiation of treatment of prisoners, but so far as I am informed there is no such thing as classification. Classification of prisoners is a reform which was introduced in England at the instance of the Departmental Committee presided over by Mr. Herbert Gladstone in 1894. I think that Committee did better work, and brought forward more information with regard to prisoners, than any other Committee. They expressed the decided opinion that no adequate attempt had yet been made to secure a sound system of classification in local prisons, and pointed out that the ideal method of treating prisoners would be to secure a sufficient number of warders and attendants to enable the characters of all prisoners to be studied so that they could be treated in such a way as to leave the prisons better and soberer men. It was admitted that this was impossible, and that the next best mode of acting was that the prisoners should be classified, and that their punishment should be less rigorous, according to the nature of their crime. This system was adopted, and the Report of the Prison Commissioners for England for 1896-97 remarks on the satisfactory results which have followed the adoption of the system in England. Under the English Prisons Act there is a considerable classification of prisoners which does not obtain in Scotland. In fact, in Scotland at this moment if a man who is convicted of riding his bicycle on the footway does not pay the fine, he is sent to prison, and placed in the same category as habitual criminals. If a man fails to pay his dog licence, and is sent to prison, he is treated in the same way. In the English Act, in such cases, the onus is laid upon the Court of First Instance to sentence the defendant to be placed in the first, second, or third division. As this great improvement has been introduced in England, I, for one, cannot see why it should not be introduced in Scotland. We in Scotland are very proud of our separate system of prisons, but we wish to see them kept up to the mark, and not to fall behind English prisons, and I think it must be owing to some mistake that this clause has not been introduced into this Bill.

Moved, that the following clause be added to the Bill—

"(1) Prisoners convicted of offences, either on edictment or otherwise, and not sentenced to penal servitude or hard labour, shall be divided into three divisions.

"(2) When a person is convicted by any court of an offence, and is sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour, the court may, if it think fit, having regard to the nature of the offence and the antecedents of the offender, direct that he be treated as an offender of the first division or an offender of the second division. If no direction is given by the court, the offender shall, subject to the provisions of this section, be treated as an offender of the third division.

"(3) Any person imprisoned in default in payment of a debt, including a civil debt recovered summarily, or in default or in lieu of distress to satisfy a sum of money adjudged to be paid by order of a court of summary jurisdiction when the imprisonment is to be without hard labour, shall be placed in a separate division and treated under special prison rules, and shall not be placed in association with criminal persons, nor be compelled to wear prison dress unless his own clothing is unfit for use.

(4) Any person imprisoned for default of entering into a recognisance or finding securities for keeping the peace or for being of good behaviour, shall be treated under the same rules as an offender of the second division unless he be a convicted prisoner, or unless the court direct that he be treated under the same rules as an offender of the first division."—(*The Earl of Glasgow.*)

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I acknowledge the importance of the subject which the noble Earl has brought before the House, and I recognise his right to speak on this subject on account of the service he rendered on a former occasion as a member of the Prisons Committee. I am sorry if I did not make myself clear the other night. I did not intend to say that we had classification by statute in Scottish prisons. But, as a matter of fact, we have in practice a classification which is in some respects more ample than that imposed by statute in English prisons. I agree with the noble Earl that a person who may be fined for riding a bicycle on the footpath, and who does not pay the fine, should not be obliged to associate with criminals who have committed serious offences. This is a classification which, as a matter of practice, though not as a matter of statutory obligation, obtains in connection with Scottish prisons, and no person so sent to prison would be placed with habitual criminals. With regard to the Amendment, I regret that I cannot accept it as it stands. It is entirely quoted from the English Act of 1898, and, as such, in some respects, and particularly in some of its phraseology, it is not adapted to Scottish circumstances. There are four sub-sections. The first and third are not suitable for Scotland. In the first place, we do not wish to be bound by statute to have only three divisions of prisoners, and the law of debt and imprisonment for debt is so different in the two countries that sub-Section 3 would clearly not be applicable to Scotland.

The second sub-section contains the main principle of the clause. It is a principle which is new, and I am in a position to say that I do not think the experience of it during the last two and a half years in England has been so entirely satisfactory that we would like to adopt it precisely in the same terms in Scotland. There are passages in the Reports of the Prisons Commission for England which I think would satisfy the noble Earl that, at any rate, there has not been sufficient experience to warrant us in accepting it simply on the English precedent. The sub-section would enjoin that there should be special treatment for two reasons. Firstly, on account of the nature of the offence; and, secondly, on account of the antecedents of the offender. That has been in some cases in England interpreted to mean that there shall be different treatment on account of the social position of the prisoner. The Prisons Commission in Scotland are entirely opposed to making any difference whatever on account of the social position of the offender. I am authorised to say, also, that the Lord Justice-Clerk would dislike any such enactment, so far as Scotland is concerned. On the other hand, I agree as to the importance of the point, and I am willing to adopt a clause in spirit the same as the second sub-section of the clause of the noble Earl. I am not in a position, as yet, to state the exact terms of the clause; but if the noble Earl will withdraw the clause now I will undertake to bring up a clause in the Standing Committee allowing special treatment if the nature of the offence seems to justify it.

I would be inclined to leave a good deal to the discretion of the judge, but the direction I would be inclined to give him would be that he would be entitled to order special treatment for a prisoner, providing there was no criminal intent in the offence. That would apply to the case which has been mentioned by the noble Earl of a man fined for riding a bicycle on the footpath, or to an engine-driver or signalman imprisoned for a *bona fide* mistake, but a mistake which, *ex hypothesi*, would be likely to have disastrous consequences. I would further propose that the circumstances should be set forth under rules to be made by the Secretary for Scotland and laid upon the Table of Parliament. If that offer will satisfy the noble Earl, and if he will withdraw his Amendment now, I will undertake, before the Standing Committee stage, which, of course, cannot now be taken for some weeks, to bring up a clause which will embody the principles I have endeavoured to indicate to the House.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: In the circumstances I have much pleasure in withdrawing my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Remaining Clauses agreed to. Bill reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

LORD NORTON: My Lords, I beg to ask the Lord President of the Council if he can relieve those engaged in the conduct of national education of grave anxiety about the incomplete progress of his scheme of legislation by offering hope of an early day for the introduction of his promised Bill. The Code, which was only laid on the Table of the House last night, adds very much to the uncertainty of the position, and owing to the Easter holidays the Code will become law before we have any opportunity of discussing it in this House.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE):

My Lords, in answer to the question of the noble Lord I have only to state that it has been necessary for the Government to give further consideration to their proposals of last year, in the light of the judgment in the suit "Cockerton *v.* The London School Board" and discussions throughout the country on the question raised. I hope, however, that either in this or the other House we shall be able to introduce a Bill immediately after Easter. With regard to the observation of the noble Lord on the subject of the Code, I regret that the intervention of the holidays should at all curtail the opportunities for discussion, but he is in error in saying there will be no opportunity for discussion before the Code becomes law. After the Easter holidays there will be a week or a longer interval during which it will be open to any Member of this House to call attention to the subject.

RIFLE RANGE NEAR WINCHESTER.

Moved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for copy of the letter of the Under Secretary of State for War to Mr. Myers, M.P., of the 15th January, 1901, on the provision of a rifle range near Winchester, and for any Reports on the arrangements for the rifle practice of the recruits at the Winchester Depot and the Yeomanry and Volunteers whose headquarters are at Winchester, also for the correspondence between the War Office and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or other owners of land in reference thereto (The Earl of Northbrook); agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

Commons message considered (according to order).

Moved, That a Committee of five Lords be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons as mentioned in the said Message (The Lord President (*D. Devonshire*); agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee:—

M. Cholmondeley.
E. Spencer.
E. Howe.
E. Carrington.
L. Rathmore.

Ordered, That such Committee have power to agree with the Committee of the House of Commons in the appointment of a chairman.

Then a Message was ordered to be sent to the House of Commons in answer to their said Message to inform them of the appointment of the said Committee by this House.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Commons message considered (according to order).

Moved, That a Committee of seven Lords be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons as mentioned in the said Message (The Lord Raglan); agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee:—

M. Bath.
E. Dartmouth.
E. Malmesbury.
E. Westmeath.
V. Hampden.
L. Newton.
L. James.

Ordered, That such Committee have power to agree with the Committee of the House of Commons in the appointment of a chairman.

Then a Message was ordered to be sent to the House of Commons in answer to their said Message to inform them of the appointment of the said Committee by this House.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock, to Monday, the 22nd of April next, a quarter past Four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 29*th March*, 1901.

The House met at Eleven of the clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, without amendment.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, having returned—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Dearne Valley Junction Railways) Bill.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—

North British Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

HORLEY DISTRICT GAS BILL AND CRAWLEY GAS BILL.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Horley District Gas Bill and the Crawley Gas Bill that they have power, if they think fit, to consolidate the said two Bills, or any part or parts thereof respectively, into one Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.

Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PAISLEY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

THAMES AND SEVERN PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Macclesfield, Ripon, Todmorden, Trowbridge, Ware, Wellingborough (Public Purposes), Wellington (Salop), Widnes, Wisbech, and Workington, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Macclesfield, Ripon, Todmorden, Trowbridge, Ware, Wellingborough (Public Purposes), Wellington (Salop), Widnes, Wisbech, and Workington," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 132.]

LONDON BRIDGE WIDENING BILL.

DERWENT VALLEY WATER BOARD BILL.

TEES VALLEY WATER BOARD BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for supplying with gas the parish of Arlesey and other places in the county of Bedford." Arlesey Gas Bill [Lords].

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to convert the capital of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Company; to empower the Company to raise additional capital; and for other purposes." Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to increase the number of the Council of the Borough of Folkestone, in the county of Kent; and for other purposes." Folkestone Corporation Bill [Lords].

ARLESEY GAS BILL [Lords].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [Lords].

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Rotherham; and Peterborough; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Fenton (three); Longton (No. 1); Gark Hall; Longton (No. 2); Polton; Outfield; Loanhead; Rosewell; Newbattle; Wallyford; Carberry; Staveley; Brownhills; Hanley (No. 3); Hanley (No. 5); Hanley (No. 1); Hanley Deep Pit; Nostell; Haigh; St. Helens; Flimby; Ellenborough; Bullgill; Gillhead; Buckhill; Seaton Moor; Robin Hood; Lepton; Clayton West; Old Silkstone; Birley (No. 1); Wortley and Farnley; and Kirkintilloch Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Rotherham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition from Cambridge, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Fenton (three); Longton (No. 1); Gark Hall; Wallyford; Carberry; Edinburgh; Loanhead; Brownhills; Hanley (No. 5); Hanley (No. 3); Hanley (No. 1); Deep Pit, Hanley; North Staveley; Haigh; Nostell; Robin Hood; Seaton Moor; Buckhill; Gillhead; Bullgill; Flimby; Ellenborough; Saint Helens; Outfield; Clayton West; Lepton; Lye; Two Gates; Old Silkstone; Birley (No. 1); Wortley and Farnley; and Cakemore Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Shipley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Pickering; Dearham; Workington (three); Maryport; Netherton; Hermiston; West Croydon; Leicester; Mexborough; Oulton; Rothwell; Stanley-cum-Wrenthorpe; Ham; Hedgman; Pentre Estyll; Pickering; Sunday School Union; Islington; Cockermouth; Llanllyfni; New Malden; Hatherleigh; Okehampton; Hackney; and Shoreditch; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Cawdor; Naidu Landward; Lossiemouth; Drainie; Glenluce; Thurso; Edinburgh (two); Tain (two); New Spynie; and Kingskettle; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the parishes of Hemsworth, Ackworth, and Badsworth, in the West Riding of the county of York (Brackenhill Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the borough of Morley and the urban districts of Drighlington, Gildersome, and East and West Ardsley, in the West Riding of the county of York (Morley and District Light Railways Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the deviation of a Light Railway authorised by the West Hartlepool Light Railways Order, 1897, and for other purposes (West Hartlepool Light Railways [Deviation, etc.] Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Salop from Cleobury Mortimer to Ditton Priors (Cleobury Mortimer and Ditton Priors Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Essex between Kelvedon and River Blackwater (Kelvedon, Tiptree, and Tollesbury Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the county of Lancaster from Ormskirk to Southport (Ormskirk and Southport Light Railways Order, (1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Kent from Hollingbourne to Faversham (Maidstone and Faversham Junction Light Railway Order, 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BREWERS' LICENCES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 28th March; *Mr. Austen Chamberlain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 111.]

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 12th December, 1900; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 112.]

EAST INDIA (ROYAL INDIAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE).

Copy presented, of Papers relating to Remodelling of Course of Instruction and Retirement of certain of the Professors and Lecturers; and Report of the Board of Visitors, dated 25th March, 1901, and Minutes of Evidence taken before them [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATIONS.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state if in the promised inquiry into the conduct of the war will be included the hiring of transports; the price paid for them; the length of many of the passages; the food supplied to the troops; the alleged unfitness of some; and especially why, at a critical time, when speed was of such importance, the fast mail steamers were not requisitioned, as per the subsidy contracts, many of which could have carried a large number of troops without any alterations.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not think that anything will be excluded by the reference from the consideration of the Commission to inquire into the conduct of the war, but I confess that I do not think their task will be a very light one. This is a short sprig of a very small branch of that very large investigation.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman inform us when the inquiry will take place, will it be a genuine inquiry, and will it take place at a time when the public interest has not decreased?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot imagine anything which would so rapidly decrease public interest as these very minute points being brought forward.

SEDITIOUS LIBELS AT THE CAPE.

Mr. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state when the trial of Mr. Albert Cartwright, editor of the *South African Daily News*, on a charge of seditious libel will take place; and whether he is to be tried by the Special Treason Court constituted by the recent Act of the Cape Colony Parliament, or under the ordinary law.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): The only information I possess on this subject is that the preparatory examination took place in the Cape Town Police Court, but I have telegraphed to inquire.

HEILBRON AFFAIR.

Mr. ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has official information to the effect that a convoy of sixty wagons, with food, mails, and 200 boxes of small arm ammunition, and 900 rounds of 15-pounder ammunition was despatched from the railway to Heilbron on 2nd June with an escort of only 140 infantry, and was captured by the Boers; that General Colvile expressed his opinion that the escort was inadequate; and that he did not receive the telegram informing him of the convoy's departure till 20th June.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): A convoy was despatched with an escort of 163 infantry on the 2nd June and was captured by the Boers. General Colvile did express an opinion as to the inadequacy of the escort, but the convoy had already started and could not be stopped. He was aware of the intended despatch of the convoy on the 2nd June. He reports that he received no telegram informing him that it had started till the 20th June; telegraphic communication was much interrupted at the time.

PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the increase of plague at Cape Town and the danger of importing the disease into this country, he will direct that all military invalids and soldiers arriving at English ports in ships on which any case of plague has occurred should be isolated and kept under observation for a sufficient period before being allowed to go to their homes or to military camps.

*Mr. BRODRICK: Instructions to this effect were issued on the 22nd instant to all concerned.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received from Lord Kitchener, since his last answer on this question, any further report of the interview between him and General Botha.

*Mr. BRODRICK: No, Sir.

MAFEKING SIEGE—THEFTS OF GOVERNMENT FOODSTUFFS.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Staff Sergeant-Major J. S. Loney, who, during the siege of Mafeking, was tried by court-martial, pleaded guilty to the theft of Government foodstuffs, was sentenced to reduction, discharge with ignominy, and five years penal servitude; that, during the final attack on Mafeking, Loney was released and took a gallant part in its defence; and that he is at present serving his time at Portland; and whether, having regard to these facts and also to the fact that before joining Baden-Powell Loney was a warrant officer with an excellent character and fifteen years service, during ten of which he had no entry against him, a mitigation of the sentence may be granted.

*Mr. BRODRICK: This warrant officer stole and sold Government food at a time when the whole of the inhabitants of Mafeking were on rations and undergoing a siege. I cannot undertake to reconsider the case.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is now able to state the proportion of members of the Yeomanry cavalry, of the Volunteer force, and of ex-members of the Regular or Militia forces in the second levy of the Imperial Yeomanry.

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid that I cannot give my hon. and gallant friend the information at present, as the Returns have not yet been received.

ARMY REORGANISATION.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, before the special discussion on the proposed Army reforms takes place, he will furnish a Return or Memorandum giving the House information respecting the 120,000 men constituting the organised force to be held available for field service over sea, as set forth in the Return on to-day's Paper entitled Army Reforms.

MR. BRODRICK: The numbers which make up the 120,000 men are as follows:—

	All ranks.
3 Army Corps	108,777
3 Cavalry Brigades	7,491
Line of Communication Troops	4,000
Total	120,268

I cannot assent to my hon. friend's Return, as the details are numerous, and our staff is already heavily worked.

MARK IV. BULLETS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the 50,000,000 Mark IV. bullets, of which 4,500,000 were recently broken up, were manufactured in conformity with the rules adopted by the Hague Conference; and on what date were the bullets contracted for.

MR. BRODRICK: Mark IV. bullets were adopted into the Service before the declaration of the Hague Conference. The order for this ammunition was given in June, 1898.

DEFECTIVE NAVAL GUNS.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the result of the recent inquiry into the bursting of guns on board one of His Majesty's ships of war.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): There have been no cases of guns bursting on board His Majesty's ships in recent years. The only instance resembling a burst occurred on board the "Royal Sovereign," when a portion of the muzzle of a six-pounder gun was blown off. The Ordnance Committee is at the present time investigating the cause of this accident.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The case I referred to was that of the guns of the "Thunderer," which were at first stated to have burst, an inquiry being ordered. I suppose they did not burst. Still, there was an inquiry.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Had I known that the right hon. Baronet alluded to that case I would have obtained the information.

MALTA—LANGUAGE QUESTION.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will grant a Return of the Memoranda and Correspondence relating to the language question in Malta subsequent to June, 1899, and in continuation of the Return previously granted and ordered to be printed on 21st July, 1899.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I propose shortly to lay before Parliament further Papers in continuation of the Return referred to by the hon. Member.

INDIAN RAILWAYS—BENGAL COAL INDUSTRY.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether complaints have reached him that the coal industry in Bengal is cramped by the inability of the East India Railway to supply sufficient wagons to carry the coal from the mines to consumers, and for shipment; and whether, to secure a better service of wagons on that railway as well as a general extension of profitable lines, the Government of India can arrange to make the expenditure on them independent of the general administrative finances under borrowing powers such as were granted some years ago and then withdrawn.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): Some representations as to the insufficiency of the rolling-stock of the East India Railway for the conveyance of coal reached me about a year ago. A short time previously large additions to the rolling-stock had been sanctioned by the Government of India; further additions were sanctioned later in the year; and, so far as I am aware, all the requirements of the Company have now been met. Though all capital outlay for railway purposes raised upon the security of the revenues of India must be under the control of Government, I agree with the hon. Gentleman that the adequate equipment of lines in working order should be a primary consideration in Indian railway administration.

SLAVERY IN ZANZIBAR.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will be able within a short time to present to the House further Papers relating to slavery and the slave trade in the Sultanate of Zanzibar, in continuance of those issued in April, 1900, and whether such Papers will include a statement of the reasons which have led His Majesty's officials to estimate that there are only half as many slaves in the two islands as were believed to exist in 1897, and to conclude that further abolitionist measures are not necessary; and whether His Majesty's Agent and Consul General will shortly issue a Report on the condition of the British East Africa Protectorate.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): Papers will be laid after the recess; they will include all the information which has reached His Majesty's Government on the subject. His Majesty's Agent and Consul General has been so short a time in the Protectorate that he has not yet had time to prepare a report, but he will be asked to do so.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN—POSITION OF OFFICE-HOLDERS.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can inform the House what is the total of the penalties that have been incurred by Ministers who were reappointed to their offices by the present King should the view of the existing law suggested by Mr. Attorney General be correct.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): When I first saw the question I hoped the hon. Member had discovered for me a new source of revenue. I may tell him, however, that the answer is *nil*.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he is aware that, under the provisions of 54 George 3, cap. 16, the seats in Parliament of persons continuing in office under successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland are not to be vacated; and whether there is any analogous provision in the existing law relating to the reappointment of Ministers by a new Sovereign.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The answer to the question in the first paragraph is in the affirmative; to that in the second paragraph, that I am not aware of any; but I may remind the hon. Member that by the Statute of Anne no re-appointment can be necessary until six months after the demise of the Crown.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the hon. and learned Gentleman if he has seen the London *Gazette* of 24th January, in which I find this statement:—"The Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour was, by His Majesty's command, sworn as First Lord of the Treasury," and whether that does not constitute a new appointment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I should say not, Sir.

POLICE PENSIONS.

Mr. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the late decision of Justices Channell and Bucknill in the case of ex-Police Constable Upperton against the Metropolitan authorities, under which it will become obligatory on all corporations and other police authorities to pay the retiring pensions of their police constables at the rate of 365¼ days per year instead of 364 days, or fifty-two weeks per year, whether steps will be taken to enable all police pensioners who have been retired under the same Act to recover back payment at the same higher rate from the various bodies under which they served.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon): So far as the Metropolitan Police are concerned, all pensions granted previous to the decision referred to have been revised in accordance therewith, and the arrears have been paid. As regards other police forces, it is a matter for the various police authorities, who, I have no doubt, will take care that the law as now declared is carried out.

CENSUS RETURNS.

Mr. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the difficulty managers of hotels and similar large establishments will be under in procuring the return for the Census, the enumerators will be authorised to accept particulars as inscribed in hotel registers of persons who, though known to have occupied rooms on the night of the 31st instant, have not presented any returns for the enumerators.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): It will be the duty of the resident manager or proprietor of a hotel or similar establishment to fill up the columns in the Census schedule for all the persons staying in the establishment on the night of Sunday next. I am afraid that the particulars in the hotel registers would generally not give the information desired.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT—LOAN REPAYMENTS.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the replies he has received from local authorities throughout the country in response to his circular asking for information respecting the precise difficulties which stand in the way of carrying out the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, he can see his way to recommend the Government to extend the period of repayment of loans for housing schemes.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have nothing to add to what I have already said on this subject. Very few replies have as yet been received from the local authorities with whom I have communicated.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Will the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance that the replies will be laid before the House?

Mr. WALTER LONG: No; certainly not. The inquiry is one of a departmental character, and therefore I could not undertake to lay the Papers on the Table.

GOVERNMENT VETERINARY INSPECTORS.

Mr. W. M'KILLOP (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can state how the situations of travelling inspectors in the Veterinary Department of the Board of Agriculture are obtained, and what qualifications are necessary; and can he explain why the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture was allowed to leave his post and to go to South Africa as Secretary to the Hospital Commission, more especially when swine fever had not yet been stamped out, and foot-and-mouth disease had again broken out in England.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of AGRICULTURE (Mr. Hanbury, Preston): We employ in connection with our work under the Diseases of Animals Act (a) veterinary inspectors and (b) inspectors. Both are nominated by the President of the Board for the time being. The former require veterinary qualifications for the performance of their duties, and they have hitherto been selected by the chief veterinary officer and their names submitted to the President. The inspectors require to possess good business habits and address, and to be capable of securing the proper observance of our orders with firmness and tact. The officer apparently referred to in the second paragraph of the question is an assistant secretary. He was selected, I understand, by the Government in July last, because it was thought that his combined military and civil experience rendered him specially qualified for the service required. Owing to the extra exertions of the remaining members of the staff, which were freely given, the business of the Department was not prejudiced by his absence for three months, which period included his ordinary holiday.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS—APPEALS AGAINST DISMISSAL

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he can now approximately indicate a date for the introduction of the Bill to afford to teachers of public elementary schools a method of appeal against wrongful dismissal from employ.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, W.R., Thirsk): My right hon. friend the Vice-President of the Board of Education wishes me to say that he is detained at the Board of Education, but the answer to the question is in the negative.

RIFLE RANGES AT POLITICAL CLUBS—YOKER (DUMBARTONSHIRE) CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that a rifle range is provided at a Conservative Club recently opened at Yoker, Dumbartonshire; and whether similar facilities for rifle practice will be afforded to the various branches of the United Irish League in Scotland and other political organisations.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I have no knowledge of the fact stated in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question. As neither the provision of rifle ranges nor the fostering of political organisations is within the province of my Department I fear I am unable to answer the second paragraph.

FORT GEORGE WATER SUPPLY.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness-shire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Inverness-shire published last year shows that water taken from a well at Fort George Station was found to be so impure as to be quite unfit for use; can it be ascertained whether the Highland Railway Company have taken any action in the matter; and is the station at Fort George now provided with wholesome water.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Board of Trade are always glad to use their good offices with respect to any subject falling within their powers, but I feel sure that the hon. Member will see on reflection that this is a matter lying entirely outside the province of this Department.

EDINBURGH POST OFFICE REVISION.

SIR LEWIS M'IVER (Edinburgh, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the answer given on 10th May, 1900, to the effect that the scheme of revision for the sorting branch of the Edinburgh Post Office would very shortly be decided; and, seeing that on 12th December, 1900, it was stated that a portion of the scheme had been sanctioned by the Treasury and carried into effect, but that certain questions of principle, with regard to higher appointments, which affected the service generally, had been held over, but which it was hoped would be disposed of before long, whether he can now say what progress has been made in arriving at a settlement of these questions.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The Postmaster General is not yet in a position to come to a final decision upon the questions referred to, as he is still in communication with the Treasury upon the subject; but he hopes that a settlement will be shortly arrived at.

INVERNESS-SHIRE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. JOHN DEWAR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that in some districts of Inverness-shire the delivery of letters is effected only once a fortnight, whilst there are others in which the delivery is effected only once a week; and, in view of the fact that most of these townships contain from 50 to upwards of 100 inhabitants, will he have some inquiry made with a view to a more frequent postal service.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Member will inform the Postmaster General what are the districts or townships in Inverness-shire to which he refers, the Postmaster General will have special inquiry made with the view of ascertaining whether it is possible to afford a more frequent delivery of letters to the places in question.

HARRIS MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. JOHN DEWAR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General has received a communication from a public meeting, recently held at Stockinish, Harris, the necessity for a mail steamer service between Loch Stockinish and the mainland; and will the Postmaster General consider the expediency of establishing the proposed service, especially in view of the fact that it would not only expedite the delivery of letters for Stockinish, but would also materially assist the conduct of the postal service for the fourteen townships between Scadabay and Flodibay, Harris.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has received the extract forwarded by the hon. Member from a letter relative to a public meeting recently held in Stockinish, Harris, at which a resolution was adopted as to the desirability of arranging for a mail steamer to call at Loch Stockinish. He is not sanguine that such a service could be established, as when the question was last considered, in 1897, it was found that if the Portree and Dunvegan steamer called at Loch Stockinish the arrival of mails at places beyond would be delayed, and also that the contractor objected to make the call on the ground that the entrance to Loch Stockinish was dangerous. The Postmaster General will, however, make further inquiry in the matter, and communicate the result to the hon. Member.

PORTARONAN BOAT SLIP.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the attention of the Congested Districts Board has been called to the necessity for the erection of a boat slip at Portaronan, Malin Head; whether he is aware that this port is frequented and used by deep sea men; that there is no accommodation for the landing of fishing boats and for the removal of the fish from the boats at present; and that in consequence quantities of fish are lost in being taken from the boats to the shore; and can he say whether this port has been visited lately by a member of the Congested Districts Board, or by any of their officials, for the purpose of reporting to the Board as to the cost and the necessity of a boat slip; and, if so, what was the report.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): Representations have been made to the Board to the effect mentioned in the first and second paragraphs. The answer to the third paragraph is in the affirmative. A committee of members of the Board will visit the place when a suitable opportunity presents itself.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT—ASSISTANT SURVEYORS.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the professional qualifications necessary for candidates for the position of assistant surveyors, in order to obviate the necessity for an examination; and can he explain on whose authority and why were the subjects of this examination altered on the passing of the Local Government Act.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The qualifications have been described in detail by an Order of the Local Government Board, published in February last. I have forwarded a copy of this Order to the hon. Member. In answer to the second paragraph, I would refer to the provisions of Section 83, Sub-sections 4 and 9, of the Act of 1898. The Civil Service Commissioners demurred to conducting these examinations, and the Local Government Board was requested to discharge that duty by the Lord Lieutenant. If the hon. Member has any representations to make on the syllabus I shall be prepared to consider them.

ROXBOROUGH ROAD SCHOOL.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how much money is now in the hands of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland on account of the Roxborough Road School endowment; from what source it is derived; to what purpose, or purposes, it is legally applicable; what became of the rents paid by the tenant for the ten years from 1880 to 1890; whether, during that period, the tenant held under an agreement which bound him to keep the premises in repair; and whether there is any way now to recover that money for the endowment; and can he say when these premises were last inspected on behalf of the Commissioners of Education; and, as they are public property in which the city of Limerick has an interest, will he see that the present tenant is kept to the terms of his agreement, and does not allow the building to go into disrepair.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The moneys referred to in the first query consist of a sum of £163 10s. 1d. cash, and £63 1s. 6d. stock, all derived from the rent payable by the present tenant of the school. The Commissioners are not in a position to state to what purposes these moneys are applicable. A sum of £210 was received by way of rent between 1880 and 1890. Of this, a sum of £188 17s. 6d. was expended by the Commissioners on repairs. The tenant is bound to keep the premises in good repair, reasonable wear and damage excepted. He appears to have expended on the premises, out of his money, a sum of £160 in the same period. The buildings have not been inspected on behalf of the Commissioners since 1892. The present tenant is bound by his agreement to give up the premises in as good condition and repair as he received them.

IRISH LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT.

Mr. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the amount paid by the Treasury in discharge of its liability to the Irish Local Taxation Account for the grant-in-aid wrongfully paid in 1898 out of that account, by passing a Supplemental Vote last July for the amount so paid, is now standing to the credit of the Irish Local Taxation Account in Dublin Castle; and will the Treasury make an Order for its payment to the different asylums for the maintenance of patients for the three months intervening between the change from the old calendar year to the new financial year, during which period the entire cost of maintenance fell on the local rates.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The amount of the Supplementary Vote taken in July last has been paid into the Local Taxation Account in the Bank of Ireland, and is available for the various purposes mentioned in Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1898. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

Mr. FLYNN: Will the Treasury issue a statement for the information of Irish Members?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I shall be very glad to attempt to explain the matter again if the hon. Members care to have my views on the subject when the Vote comes on.

APJOHN'S ESTATE.

Mr. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, under the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896, steps have been taken to sell to the tenants of the late Michael Marshall Lloyd Apjohn their several tenancies on the townlands of Garrison, Nicker, Drominboy, and Ballyvoneen; can he say how far negotiations have been carried; and will he use his best endeavours to see that said sale will be carried out.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The case of this estate was before the Land Judge on the 7th February. An adjournment was granted until June, in order that a rental might finally be settled with a view to the issue of a request for an inspection by the Land Commissioners under the 40th section of the Act of 1896.

LADY DE BURGH'S ESTATE.

Mr. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Land Commissioners, Messrs. Lynch and Wrench, made an order in respect of the values of the various tenancies on the townlands of Drumsally, Dromalta, and Dromcloher, in the parish of Cappamore, county Limerick, on the estate of Lady De Burgh, with a view to have those lands sold to the tenants under the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896; and, having regard to the fact that the tenants and the mortgagees and others interested in the sale have all agreed to the proposed terms, can he say what is now preventing the sale from coming to an issue, and will he take steps that on the earliest opportunity the matter may be brought to a completion.

Mr. WYNDHAM: An Order was issued in January last by the Land Judge for the sale of the lands in question to the tenants under section 40. I understand that the procedure of making the offers is now being carried out.

IRISH HEAD CONSTABLES.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many "P" head constables have been examined for the rank of district inspector since the rule came into force of working with "P," as above those who passed the educational examination; how many of those men were clerks, and how many of those were clerks at the Castle; and how many of the men who were clerks have been successful at those examinations; whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists in connection with Mr. Singleton; and can he state how many times this gentleman has presided at the Board of Examiners.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of head constables possessing the "P" qualification who have been examined for the rank of district inspector is 59. Only one of these men held the position of clerk, though not at the Castle, and he was unsuccessful. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative. Mr. Singleton has presided at three examinations.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): What is meant by the mysterious "P."?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I believe it means an examination for the rank of District Inspector.

CASE OF MRS. MURRIHY, OF TARMON, CLARE.

Major JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of Mrs. Murrihy, of Tarmon, county Clare, a widow, who was evicted; and, seeing that she was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and to find bail for twelve months, or to remain another month in gaol, and was convicted under a practically obsolete Act, will he take steps to have her at once released.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Mrs. Murrihy, on the 9th February last, persistently followed a man and molested him by opprobrious exclamations. She was prosecuted under Section 7, sub-section 2, of the 38th and 39th Vict. cap. 86. But that is the very Act for the protection of Trades Unions, the application of which to agrarian disputes in Ireland was so warmly advocated by some hon. Members from Ireland in an Amendment to the Address. Any representations in favour of the woman's release from custody should be addressed in the usual way to the Lord Lieutenant. I may add, however, that further proceedings are pending against her for similar conduct on the 25th February.

PEMBROKE (IRELAND) URBAN COUNCIL.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the Report on the accounts of Pembroke Urban Council by the Local Government Board auditor, who refused to grant a certificate on the ground that the abstracts did not represent the position of affairs; whether he is aware that the Report revealed that loans were put to credit of current revenue; that moneys lodged by contractors as security were similarly treated; that false debit balances were shown in the accounts, and that other sums on deposit were ignored; that the sum collected as poor rate had not been all paid over to the county council at the end of the financial year; and that the debit balance had been wrongly stated, while the indebtedness of the council had increased during the year by £16,151 11s. 11d.; whether the Government will take steps to further investigate and set right the financial affairs of this council; and whether they will oppose the Bill promoted by this council for extension of its borrowing powers.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The general effect of the Report was as stated in the second paragraph. The auditor will duly complete the audit as soon as the irregularities in theaccounts to which he called attention are set right. I think it only right to mention, however, that a resolution has been passed by the finance committee of the council as to the appointment of a skilled and independent accountant, in order to meet the requirements of the Local Government Board, and that this resolution will be dealt with by the council at its meeting on Monday next.

ROSCOMMON CONSTABULARY.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the county inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary resides outside the county of Roscommon, and that his office, headquarters, and staff are in a neighbouring county; and, seeing that representations on the subject have been made by a number of the local boards of Roscommon, whether it is intended by the authorities to give effect to these representations by requiring the county inspector of Roscommon and his staff to reside within that county.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The facts are as stated by the hon. Member. It is the intention to give effect to the representations of the local bodies in question as soon as the proposed new arrangements can be carried out.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JOYCE.

Mr. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of District Councillor Joyce, who has been imprisoned without hard labour for a political offence; and whether such a penalty renders him unable to sit and vote as a district councillor.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The person referred to was not convicted of a political offence, but of conspiracy to intimidate. As his sentence of imprisonment did not carry with it hard labour, he would not appear to be disqualified for being a district councillor.

WEXFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Messrs. Felix Adams and Patrick Walsh, both members of the Wexford District Council, were disqualified as such by the Local Government Board because they were tenants of labourers' cottages; and, seeing that the Local Government Board have recently addressed a communication to the district councils stating that no legal disqualification attaches to a person by reason of his being a tenant of a labourer's cottage, and that the aforesaid gentlemen have sought to be reinstated on the Wexford District Council, whether he will advise the Local Government Board to relieve the Wexford District Council of the difficulty in which it is placed.

MR. WYNDHAM: A bench of magistrates in Petty Sessions having decided that tenants of labourers' cottages were disqualified for the office of rural district councillor, the Wexford Council declared the offices held by the persons named to be vacant, and subsequently co-opted two other persons in their stead. Having regard to the recent decision of the King's Bench Division, it is open to the council, if they wish, to choose Messrs. Adams and Walsh to fill the next vacancies on the council, provided, of course, they possess the necesssary qualifications.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, Mid): In view of the injustice done these gentlemen, will the right hon. Gentleman see that they are reinstated in their membership?

MR. WYNDHAM: There is no power vested in the Local Government Board to do that.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Is not this another illustration of the improper interference of the Local Government Board?

MR. WYNDHAM: It is a case of non-interference.

LAND ACT, 1896, SECTION 40.

MR. FFRENCH: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that when an estate is put in the Land Judges' List for application of the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896, no direct notice is sent to the tenants, and that the only notice they receive is the notice which appears in the law lists of the daily papers; and whether steps will be taken to have direct notice served on the tenants.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Where any question is raised or doubt is found to exist as to whether the 40th section applies to the particular estate, special notice is sent to some of the principal tenants on the estate informing them of the objection which has been raised, and naming the date when it will be considered. The course suggested in the question would largely increase the costs of sale which must be borne by the estate, and, in the opinion of the land judge, is unnecessary.

POYNTZPASS PETTY SESSIONAL BENCH.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that though the Roman Catholics constitute nearly half of the population in the petty sessions district of Poyntzpass, county Armagh, there is not a single Roman Catholic on the bench, and that the resident magistrate, the petty sessions chairman, the dispensary doctor, the postmaster, and four postmen out of five are all Protestants; can he state how long it is since a Roman Catholic sat on the bench in Poyntzpass; and can he hold out any hope that the alleged grievances of Roman Catholics in respect of the above matters will soon be remedied.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no official cognisance of post-office appointments. The dispensary medical officer was appointed by the Board of Guardians. With regard to the religious composition of the petty sessions bench, the lieutenant of the county will consider any recommendations that may be made to him.

HAMILTON SYNGE ESTATE, ARMAGH.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that twenty-two tenants on the Hamilton Synge Estate, Tullinaval, county Armagh, served originating notices in April, 1899; that their cases were listed, and came before Mr. Edge, at Newtownhamilton, on 19th July, 1900, when they were adjourned at the instance of the receiver, Mr. Meares, who guaranteed to have all requests under Section 40 of The Land Act, 1896, issued at once; that these cases were again adjourned by Judge Ross in November, 1900; and seeing that, though the requests under Section 40 have been issued, the Land Court has not yet sent down two valuers to inspect the holdings, whether he can state when these valuers will be sent; when the cases will be heard; and whether, if not heard before the proposed sale, a reduction in valuation will be made by the Court valuer in proportion to the reduction the tenants would probably have received had their cases come before the Sub-Commission in due course.

MR. WYNDHAM: In these cases the Land Commissioners, by Order made in November last, adjourned the fair-rent applications pending the result of proceedings under the 40th section of the Act of 1896. The estate is at present being inspected with a view to enable two of the Commissioners to report to the land judge in accordance with the requirements of this section. It would not, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be expedient to carry on the proceedings for fixing judicial rents concurrently with proceedings under Section 40.

IRISH HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS—FRANCISCANS' COLLECTION.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if the Historical MSS. Commission propose to publish all the valuable historical MSS. in the collection of the Irish Franciscans, or only that portion of them referred to in the late Sir John Gilbert's Report (Appendix to Report 4, Historical MSS. Commission), and whether the documents recited by Sir John Gilbert are being published *in extenso*; if he is aware that MSS., some of them in Irish, are included in the MSS. of the Irish Franciscans which have never been examined by any representative of the Commission, including, among other papers, Father Wadding's Correspondence during the Confederation of Kilkenny, and if these MSS. will be published in a subsequent volume to the one now about to be published; and if the Commission will make use of the copies and translations of thesedocuments made by the Franciscan Fathers or on their behalf.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Commissioners on Historical Manuscripts intend to publish abstracts or copies of all the historical manuscripts belonging to the Irish Franciscans in Dublin, whether previously noticed by Sir John Gilbert or not; but only such of them as are of special importance will be printed at full length. The Commissioners are only aware of one letter in Irish in Father Wadding's correspondence and of one other letter in that language in the rest of the Franciscan collection. These two letters will, of course, be published in their Report on the manuscripts. Use has been made in the preparation of the Report of any copies and translations which the Franciscan Fathers have kindly placed at the disposal of the inspector under the Commission engaged on the work.

GREAT NORTHERN OF IRELAND RAILWAY—POYNTZPASS LEVEL CROSSING.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Great Northern Railway Company, Ireland, allow their trains to remain on the level crossing in Poyntzpass for fifteen or twenty minutes at a time to the obstruction of the traffic; and, seeing that this practice is one of many years duration, whether he will take steps to ensure the construction of a footbridge at least, so that persons may pass through the town without danger or delay.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no recent information on the subject of the hon. Member's question, but will cause inquiry to be made. The Board of Trade have not in any case power to order the construction of a footbridge at this crossing.

POYNTZPASS POSTAL STAFF.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the postmaster in Poyntzpass, county Armagh, Ireland, is a Protestant, and that four out of the five postmen are also Protestants; whether he can state the salaries of each of these postmen; and whether, seeing that the Roman Catholics constitute about one-half of the population of the district, he will see that their claims are not overlooked when future vacancies occur in the above posts.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General is not aware what is the religion of this sub-postmaster or of the postmen under his control, as that is a matter with which the Department is in no way concerned. There are only two established postmen attached to the office, and their wages are 16s. a week each.

ARMY REORGANISATION.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will now place upon the Paper the terms of the resolution relating to the new Army programme of the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the Secretary of State for War will be able to lay the terms of the resolution on the Table before the House separates for the Easter recess.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether there is to be any business on Tuesday besides the motion for the adjournment of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the most convenient plan for Tuesday will be to have a morning sitting at 2 o'clock in order to take the motion for the adjournment over the Easter holidays. Of course there will be a 9 o'clock sitting, if the House desires it, to carry on private business; but there will be no Government business on Tuesday except the motion for the adjournment, unless, as I do not anticipate, we are unsuccessful in obtaining the Second Reading of the Army Bill on Monday.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I wish to put a question to the right hon. Gentleman. He has stated that the Demise of the Crown Bill is to be taken on Monday. I would respectfully urge that this Bill raises a very serious constitutional question — namely, whether in certain cases an appointment by the Crown should carry with it vacation of seat in the House of Commons. According to one view of the law, therefore, this Bill will be for present Ministers an indemnity Bill; and I would ask whether it is desirable to push forward such a serious and controversial question on the day before the holidays; and whether it would not be better to postpone the Bill until after Easter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that the Bill involves the grave constitutional question which the hon. Member describes; and I think that the House ought to be able very well to decide such a matter on Monday.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman will not entertain the idea of postponement?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is, as far as I can see, no adequate reason for postponing it.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

That they have appointed a Committee consisting of seven Lords to join with a Committee of the Commons, pursuant to Message of this House, to consider the various charitable agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds supplied by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government pensions for widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors who have lost their lives in war.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

That they have appointed a Committee consisting of five Lords to join with a Committee of the Commons, pursuant to Message of this House, to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords.

NEW BILLS.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES (REPAYMENT OF LOANS).

Bill to extend the period for the repayment of Loans raised for the provision of

Workmen's Dwellings, and to confer further borrowing powers on local authorities, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hay, Mr. Bull, Mr. Duke, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Mr. Flower, Mr. Goulding, Mr. Remnant, and Mr. H. S. Samuel.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES (REPAYMENT OF LOANS) BILL.

"To extend the period for the repayment of Loans raised for the provision of Workmen's Dwellings, and to confer further borrowing powers on local authorities," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 133.]

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Law relating to Light Railways and Tramways in Ireland, and to assimilate the Law relating thereto in Ireland to that in England, ordered to be brought in by Mr. O'Doherty, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Archdale, Mr. Condon, Mr. Lonsdale, and Mr. Carvill.

TRAMWAYS (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Light Railways and Tramways in Ireland, and to assimilate the Law relating thereto in Ireland to that in England," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 134.]

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND).

Bill for the acquisition of certain Land near the National Gallery in London, and for purposes connected therewith, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Akers Douglas and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND) BILL.

"For the acquisition of certain Land near the National Gallery in London, and for purposes connected therewith," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 135.]

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS JOINT COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That two Members be added to the Select Committee on Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors:—Mr. Archdale and Colonel Nolan. — (*Sir William Walrond.*)

SUPPLY [3RD ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

1. £1,023,100, Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said that the sum asked for was the largest which had ever been presented under this Vote. To this must be added another amount of much more than two millions for works under the Naval Works Act. The hon. Gentleman was called upon to administer on behalf of the Government an enormous sum, and he heartily congratulated him, and sympathised with him as well, on the great responsibility which rested upon him. The works under the Act were of very great importance, and the House was naturally anxious for the fullest information about them. He should like to know when the Naval Works Bill would be introduced, and whether the fullest opportunities for discussion would be given. If he received an assurance that ample opportunity would be afforded for full debate, then he would not on the present occasion detain the Committee with any observations on naval works, for he would very much prefer to discuss that after the Civil Lord had made the customary statement in introducing the Naval Works Bill.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) asked for some explanation of the proposed expenditure on the boom defences of Southampton. Were not the Southampton Waters already adequately protected by the torpedo establishments at Spithead and the Needles? He would like also some information as to what was being done with the coaling arrangements at Simons Bay. He was told that there were only six lighters there, the biggest of which held but seventy tons, while the tug for moving them alongside was condemned as far back as 1894. In fact, she could not do her work in anything like a breeze. Were the Government and the Admiralty sufficiently alive to the deficiencies in this matter? Further, he wished to inquire if the dredging had been completed at Wei-hai-wei, and were the Admiralty satisfied that sufficient had been done in this matter. Finally, he had to ask what progress had been made for improved coaling facilities at the Falkland Islands.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said he found on reference to the Votes that whereas at English dockyards they were spending hundreds of thousands of pounds, at Haulbowline they only proposed to spend some £4,000 odd. The disparity was very great, and it was rendered all the more remarkable by the fact that the money spent at Haulbowline was distributed over a number of years, and expended very slowly, whereas the money voted for the English dockyards was got rid of with much greater rapidity. He was not complaining of the action of the present Board of Admiralty with regard to Haulbowline, because it had shown a more generous spirit than its predecessor. Seeing that at Chatham, Sheerness, Portsmouth, Devonport, and Pembroke the Vote for works, buildings, etc., amounted to over half a million sterling, the very fact that only £4,200 was to be given to Haulbowline illustrated the niggardly spirit in which the spending authorities of their great Departments dealt with Ireland. Passing on to the Vote for hospitals, he found that at Plymouth it was proposed to expend some £65,000 and at Portland £63,000, but at Haulbowline only £13,000 was to be laid out, and that in spite of the fact that large numbers of His Majesty's ships entered Queenstown harbour and quite recently there had been outbreaks of smallpox, which had rendered it necessary to send some of the men into the hospitals there. He did hope that the £17,000 which it was proposed now to spend at Haulbowline would be spent with dispatch, and that there would be no unnecessary delay in the matter. Then he came to the question of armaments, and here again there was another striking contrast. At Portsmouth £47,000 was to be spent, but the Vote for Bantry Bay was only £2,700, and of that only £700 had yet been laid out. That again illustrated the manner in which the Admiralty treated this question when stations in Ireland were concerned. They had in the Cork post office a still further illustration of this, for the rebuilding of that establishment had been spread over three years, whereas an ordinary contractor would have done the work in six months. He hoped that the Admiralty would make up their mind to push the work forward more rapidly, and treat Irish stations on an equal footing with English stations.

*The CIVIL LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) said that the Naval Works Bill would be brought in later in the session, but the exact date must be left to the decision of the Leader of the House. He hoped, however, that it would be introduced without much delay after the House assembled. Of course, it was not for him to give pledges with regard to the conduct of business, but he was perfectly certain there would be ample opportunity afforded for a full debate. The occasion of the introduction of the Naval Works Bill might be the most convenient time for discussing the great and important works which were included in the Bill. With reference to the position of Southampton, he might point out that it was almost a part of the great naval port of Portsmouth. Circumstances might arise when the Fleet would have to make temporary use of Southampton Waters; and it was for naval purposes and not for commercial purposes that this new defence was provided. Simons Bay and Falkland Islands were portions of great questions which were now receiving the most careful consideration with reference to the coaling of the Fleet. The work at Simons Bay was in progress, but it did not come under this Vote, and a fuller statement on that subject would be made later. The Falkland Islands were under consideration. Some of the work was being put out to contract, progress was being made. The object of spending money at the Falkland Islands was to secure that the position should be made available for coaling the Fleet. Replying to the hon. Member for North Cork, he admitted that the figures quoted by the hon. Member with reference to the expenditure at Haulbowline and Bantry Bay were less than those relating to the great dockyards in England. He assumed, however, that the hon. Member intended to take them in a proportionate sense, and would not expect to have so much money spent at a small dockyard as at a large one.

MR. FLYNN: I pointed out that the disproportion was so enormous.

*MR. PRETYMAN said he quite took it that the hon. Member's argument was based on the question of proportion, but he might also inform him that in addition to the sums he had quoted, £12,000 was being expended at Haulbowline, and no less than £63,000 was included in the Naval Works Act for other work in Ireland. He thought that would remove practically any cause of complaint. Altogether a sum of £75,000 was now actually being spent by the Admiralty in Ireland. It should be remembered that in devoting money to Haulbowline as they were now doing they were doing it with the prospect of making still greater use of that dockyard in future years, and of spending a still greater sum on ship repairing and building there. The money they were now voting might be taken as an earnest of what was to be spent in Ireland in the future. With regard to works at Bantry Bay, the hon. Member had complained of the slowness with which the money was being expended, but he would like to point out that it would be impossible to push forward the work with greater rapidity without importing a large quantity of labour from other districts. He did not imagine the hon. Member would desire that, and the Admiralty were acting under the belief that the ordinary population of Bantry would really derive more advantage from a slow and continuous expenditure than if thousands of pounds were laid out in one year.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) referred to the question of the rifle range for the Marines at Plymouth. The present accommodation was quite inadequate, and a long way from the town. Last year it was stated that the War Office had acquired a range on Dartmoor, and that the Admiralty had asked that Department to negotiate for a site which should be available for the rifle practice of the Marines. It was understood that there were great difficulties, presumably connected with the landlord element, in the way, and the hon. Member then in charge of the Vote suggested that the time had arrived when the War Office should proceed by Provisional Order. Had the arrangement for this most urgently needed rifle range site been concluded? The hon. Member expressed his approval of the expenditure at various dockyards in the erection of new workshops, and hoped the machinery would be of the most modern description. In some yards the machinery was much behind the times, and it was impossible for work to progress as rapidly as the country desired unless the machinery was up to date. At Devonport two docks had been widened to accommodate second class battleships, but unfortunately the width was not sufficient to accommodate battleships of the size now being built. The era of so-called second class battleships had passed away, and the hon. Member, therefore, suggested that by certain alterations the docks at Devonport could and should be made available for the class of ships now being built.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB, in reference to the item for booms to close the port at Southampton, thought it was the first time such a charge had appeared on the Navy Estimates. The business of the Navy was to keep the ports open, and the access to them clear. Southampton was an inner port in a completely and almost over-defended area, and in that respect differed from other ports. He should be glad if the matter could be explained.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.)

said this was no new departure; the boom arrangement had existed for some time at Southampton. The money was taken to repair a portion which had been destroyed by fire. It was impossible to regard Southampton as a port not involved in military matters. In connection with the present war, nearly the whole of the troops had gone from Southampton, while if any attack were made which involved Portsmouth harbour, Southampton harbour would be equally exposed; and certainly the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Great Yarmouth would be the last willingly to divorce military from naval operations. It was almost inconceivable, if this country was engaged in any military operations, that the embarkation or debarkation of troops would not be going on at Southampton Water, which it would be the duty of the Navy to safeguard. Therefore, although there might be objections to the principle of applying boom defence to the defence of harbours, if the principle was adopted at all, Southampton was eminently a place at which it should be applied.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) thought the charge for booms was rather an Army than a Navy charge. There were two Votes affecting Hong Kong. It was an acknowledged fact that the defences of Hong Kong were in a hopelessly bad state, and it would be interesting to have details of this expenditure. Something certainly ought to be done towards making Hong Kong more defensible now that it had become one of our most important strategic positions in regard to China. A considerable sum appeared to have been spent on dredging in Portsmouth harbour. But a very serious question arose. The entrance to the harbour was very narrow, and the more dredging operations took place the larger became the basin inside, with the result that the dredging had already increased the current in the mouth of the harbour to a dangerous extent. The Admiralty would not be acting wisely if they carried on these operations too largely without widening the aperture for letting the water in and out with the rise and fall of the tide.

Sir EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe) asked whether Stanley harbour was being fortified, and urged the advisability of connecting it by cable with the Cape.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said that the matter of the rifle range for the Marines was entirely in the hands of the War Office, and he believed the negotiations were not yet completed. He understood that a great number of small owners were concerned, but he had no absolute information on the matter generally. In regard to the Devonport docks, they had there at present one dock capable of taking the largest battleship, and new docks which were being constructed would take such ships. It was not felt necessary, therefore, to widen the present docks. In reference to the question of dredging at Portsmouth, that matter was being very carefully watched. There had been dredging above low water, but the volume had not been so largely increased, and this would accelerate the current at Portsmouth Harbour. This dredging had not been done to any dangerous extent. The question of providing guns at Hong Kong was a matter in which the War Office solely was concerned.

Resolution agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £359,500, be granted to His Majesty to defray the expense of various Miscellaneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Mr. FLYNN asked for some information in regard to the travelling allowance *per diem* to seamen and Marines. He presumed that the travelling expenses of naval marine officers should be something respectable. What was the amount allowed? Was it so much per day, or so much per hundred miles while travelling from one station to another? Not long ago he saw a steamer travelling to Ireland from Portsmouth with a number of Marines on board bound for Cork. They got in a train on the Great Western Railway, and he was assured that they were only allowed sixpence per day for supper, for all the night, and the miserable breakfast they got in the morning. The result was that they were turned out on the quay at Cork more dead than alive. He did not think soldiers travelling all night and having to provide breakfast next morning should be paid the miserable sum of sixpence per day travelling allowance. With regard to Roman Catholic chaplains for the Navy, they were anxious to know if the hon. Member for West Belfast had anything to add in reference to Roman Catholic chaplains being attached to squadrons or services on shore being provided for. A large number of Roman Catholic sailors who joined the Navy were anxious to receive the ministrations of their own faith. So great was the need in this matter that those connected with the Navy at Cork Harbour had established some kind of a guild to provide for these services for the sailors by private subscription. He hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would have some additional information to give to the Committee in addition to what he gave last week. There was one other matter, to which he referred with some reluctance, and that was the trip of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to Australia. There was not a proper opportunity afforded a few nights ago when the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil asked how it was that the sum required for this trip was taken without the previous sanction of the House of Commons. He objected to this upon principle, and when the question was asked as to who was responsible for this expenditure being undertaken, the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied, "I am responsible." There was a question of principle involved in that, and the Admiralty should have got the sanction of the House of Commons to such a large expenditure before incurring it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had no right to violate this principle. He was quite aware that this trip was contemplated during the reign of the late Queen, and was suggested more or less by her. But neither the Admiralty nor the Chancellor of the Exchequer had asked for the money, and he objected to the idea that because the expedition had been commenced the money was to be voted *sub silentio*. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had no right to undertake such a responsibility without the previous sanction of the House.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the hon. Member was under a misapprehension. The expedition had not been undertaken without the sanction of Parliament. A sum of £35,000 for this expedition was voted by the House on the Supplementary Estimates. If the item was struck out of the present Vote the expedition would have to be recalled, but the constitutional point which had been raised had been fully met. With regard to Roman Catholic chaplains, this Vote did not deal with the payment to chaplains on board ship or those attached to naval institutions. The other matter mentioned by the hon. Member was that the subsistence allowance of sixpence a day was only given to seamen and Marines travelling from port to port. If the hon. Member could give him the particulars of a specific case he would investigate it. Within the last few days he had had occasion to examine the question of subsistence allowance both for men and boys on journeys from port to port, but he did not find that the facts corresponded with what the hon. Gentleman had suggested had come under his notice.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest-of-Dean) said there was one matter on this Vote which had not been mentioned; he meant the Vote for naval attachés. The increase was very large indeed, and he was entirely favourable to it. But no statement had been made as to the character of the new arrangements. What chiefly interested him was the necessity which undoubtedly existed for appointing really able men as military and naval attachés. If the hon. Gentleman would mention to the First Lord of the Admiralty the interest felt in the House in regard to the personality of the attachés, he would do a good service. It would be practically admitted that in the past the appointments had been of various degrees of merit. These appointments were of the highest possible importance, but that importance depended entirely upon the character of the men selected.

MR. KEARLEY said he wanted to refer to the question which had been mentioned the previous week, namely, the grant to warrant officers of the Distinguished Service Order. Would the hon. Gentleman tell the Committee whether the warrant officers would receive any medal at all, and whether this Vote comprised the medals that were going to be issued in connection with the South African and Chinese campaigns. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman might say whether, since the previous week, the Admiralty had come to any conclusion as to the distribution of the Distinguished Service Order to warrant officers, or, if they were not to receive the distinguished Service Order, what decoration they might expect.

MR. FLYNN asked if the same rate of pay applied to seamen, the Marines travelling from one ship or station to another, partly by sea and partly by land, as was given to soldiers. He had seen seamen and Marines travelling between Bristol and Cardiff. The boat did not leave Milford till the morning, and could not get to Cork till eight o'clock at night. All that the men were allowed was 6d. for supper and 6d. next day for breakfast. He had asked the officer in charge, who told him that 6d. a day was all that the men got for subsistence. That was a most disgraceful and utterly inadequate allowance.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that unless the men were borne on the ship's books he was not responsible. In regard to what had been said as to naval attachés, it was of the highest importance that the officers appointed to represent the Navy should be selected with the greatest care. It would tend to make the selection of first-rate officers easier if the emoluments were increased. These emoluments were being increased, and the remainder of the increase in the Vote was due to the fact that a fourth naval attaché had been appointed. The hon. Member for Devonport had asked if he could make a statement now in regard to decorations for warrant officers in the South African War and the Chinese campaign. He regretted he could not do so. He should be loth to make any statement until the announcement could be made in a complete form, not only as to the honorary distinctions to be granted, but also as to the question of emoluments. These two questions would have to be dealt with in a different way, and when a decision had been arrived at by the Admiralty, he would be happy to inform the hon. Member.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER asked whether the large increase in the Vote for naval attachés was for salaries and expenses in addition to their pay, for he supposed that they got their pay under another Vote. The hon. Gentleman had spoken about some of the salaries being increased and of the appointment of a fourth attaché. Did that mean that there were only four naval attachés altogether?

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said he noticed under head A an increase of £6,000, with reference to passage money and the conveyance of officers, seamen, and Marines. He wanted to know how that increase arose, and what proportion was paid to officers, seamen, and Marines respectively.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he could not give the hon. Member the actual details, but the increase in the Vote was due to the fact that more officers and men had been sent out this year for reliefs to South Africa and others had been brought back and had received passages by mail steamers. With regard to the naval attachés, the present arrangement was that these officers received a consolidated rate of pay, and they were also granted, of course, certain travelling allowances, and special allowances for special work. As to their distribution, there were at present two attachés in Europe, with headquarters at Paris and Berlin. There were also two naval attachés whose duty it was to obtain information with regard to naval progress in the United States and Japan.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that they ought to have had a schedule showing the different rates of passage money for the different classes, and whether the rates varied with different steamship companies.

MR. FLYNN said there was an item of £2,500, loss by exchange and discount on bills drawn by the accountants on the China and East India stations. Considering the number of rupees given for an English sovereign, there ought to have been a gain instead of a loss.

Captain NORTON asked the right hon. Gentleman if he could state the various rates for pilotage and towing of His Majesty's ships. Was this system by tonnage or otherwise?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was afraid he could not answer the latter question off-hand. He referred hon. Gentlemen to the statute which governed the question of the reduced charges for men, and to the very elaborate details with reference to the particulars and allowances. Pilots were to a large extent dispensed with in His Majesty's ships, but there were some small items for pilotage. The bulk of the sum, however, was for towing.

Mr. FLYNN complained that no answer had been given to the important question he put. The hon. Gentleman could without referring to any schedule merely give an approximate idea of how much of this sum was for railway and steamboat fares and how much was for the maintenance of the men when travelling on service. As the explanation of the hon. Gentleman had been so unsatisfactory, he moved to reduce the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Flynn*).

Mr. WARNER said that when the hon. Gentleman referred to the "statute" he no doubt referred to the Army Annual Bill, which put the allowance at 6d. a day. He contended that that sum was far too small.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 111).

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
Oldroyd, Mark
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, J. A (Glamorgan Gower
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Yoxall, James Henry
Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Flynn and Captain Norton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G.W.(Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles,Capt. H.F.(Middlesex
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F .(N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J Austen(Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane,Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Chas. Ready
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, John A.(Invernesshire
Dewar,T.R. (T'rH'mletsSGeo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy,Hn. EdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gladstone,RtHnHerbert John
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,Maj Evans-(TrHmlets
Gorst, Rt Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, SirEW(B'ry.SEdm'ds

Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Kay-Shuttleworth,Rt.HnSirU
Kenyon-Slaney,Col. W.(Salop.
Kimber, Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Lambton,Hon.FrederickWm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.,Fareh'm
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leighton, Stanley
Levy, Maurice
Long,Col.Chas. W.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,Rt.Hn.WGEllison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigton
Maxwell,WJH(Dumfriesshire
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milton, Viscount
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham

Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir Chas. M.(Durham)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.- Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith,HC(North'mbTyneside
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn CR(Northants
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Thomas, Abel(Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H(Shef'ld
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wallace, Robert
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. KEARLEY drew attention to the item of wages of the Metropolitan police employed in the dockyards, and asked if it were intended to make the same concession to the police of Devonport as had been made to the Metropolitan police. That concession had been made in consequence of the high rents the men had to pay in London. It was a matter of common notoriety that the rental conditions prevailing at Devonport were even higher than those prevailing in London. The last

Census Returns had called attention to the enormous overcrowding in the town, and showed that a very large percentage of the people were housed in a single room. If the police of Devonport did not get this concession granted to them it would be most unfair. Of course they knew that Devonport was a landlord's monopoly pure and simple. He agreed that the population had no means of extricating themselves, but that was no reason, when a concession was made on a definite basis, that it should not be extended to another place suffering under precisely the same conditions. He begged to move the reduction of this item by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item S be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salaries of the Water Police."—(*Mr. Kearley.*)

Captain NORTON asked whether any portion of the amount for contingent expenses could be used for lodging allowance, or whether anything had been given to these men in the shape of lodging allowance. It would be in the recollection of the Committee that an increase was given to the Metropolitan police force as a special allowance for lodging-house accommodation. It was manifestly unjust that a similar allowance should not be made to the men at Devonport. With regard to the water police, he wished to know whether it was the case that when they succeeded in rescuing a person from drowning they received no compensation whatever, whereas if the individual was allowed to drown and they succeeded in getting out the corpse they were allowed something.

***Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER** asked whether the hon. Member was speaking of the police on the Thames within the Metropolitan area, or the police under the control of the Admiralty.

Captain NORTON said he was alluding to the water police. He presumed they were under the Admiralty if they were in the Admiralty Vote.

***Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER** said the Admiralty had nothing to do with the pay and allowances of the water police. They were sent down by the authorities of the Metropolitan police for service under the Admiralty in the dockyards, and the Admiralty paid the sum demanded by the authorities of the Metropolitan police with the sanction of the Treasury.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said the Amendment before the Committee raised a question of principle, namely, that an allowance ought to be extended to the men at Devonport. When the question was last before the House the First Lord of the Admiralty promised to inquire into it. The hon. Gentleman representing the Admiralty had not attempted to discuss the question or to give any official answer to the case that had been made out. The hon. Gentleman said this was a question for the Metropolitan police authorities. The authority immediately responsible for this was the Admiralty, If his hon. friend divided the Committee on the question he should feel bound to support the Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 128; Noes, 173. (Division List No. 112.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph

Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone,RtHnHerbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol,E.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, J. (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Chas. M.(Durham
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R(Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,J A(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White,Patrick (Meath,North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Kearley and Mr. Warner.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlexF.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G.W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Brstol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middle'x
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson,Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, IrwinEdward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke,Rt.Hn.SirWilliam Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,Maj.Evans-(Tr.Hmlts
Gorst,Rt.Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Hain, Edward
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse,Henry(Somerset,E.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brights'de
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir WilliamHy.
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareh'm
Long,ColCharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE (Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milton, Viscount
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamst.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Sir Charles G. E (Notts.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) asked whether the amount for telegraphic communications covered wireless telegraphy, as it had been stated that very important experiments had been made.

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled that, as the item dealing with this matter had been passed, the subject could not now be discussed.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS then alluded to the contributions in aid of charitable and religious institutions, and asked what institutions were referred to. There were also contributions in aid of sailors' homes. These were excellent institutions, saving sailors from the temptations which beset them on shore, and tending to preserve their reputation and character, and that only £1,000 should be given to such institutions was parsimony in a direction in which it was not desirable.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) directed attention to the large amount required in connection with the special journey of the "Ophir" to Australia. There were £126,000 for hire, and £56,000 for the fitting up, and the fittings were actually to be sold on the return of the ship for £3,300. It was very desirable that some explanation of that great difference should be given.

MR. KEARLEY, referring to an item for the hire of foreign interpreters, and commenting on the fact that the bulk of the young fellows entering the Navy had no knowledge of any language other than their own, suggested that the Admiralty would be taking an admirable step in connection with the training of their officers if, instead of troubling about the classics, they insisted that no cadet should be taken into the Navy who had not a good colloquial knowledge of, at all events, German and French. In regard to the training of carrier pigeons, he asked for information as to where the operations were being carried on, and the place to and from which the pigeons were being trained to fly. At Dover he had seen a consignment of pigeons landed from Germany, in the custody of German officials connected with the Army or Navy, and those birds were released at Dover to fly back to Kiel or wherever else they had come from. The Committee were entitled to know whether the Admiralty had similar facilities granted to them with regard to flying pigeons from Germany to England.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, who was very indistinctly heard, was understood to state that contributions were made from naval funds only to institutions directly connected with the interests of the Navy, and were usually limited to £50 for each institution. It would no doubt be satisfactory to many if the Admiralty were to give largely to deserving institutions, but the need must be proved before further funds could be asked for. With regard to the "Ophir," the hon. Member for West Islington was wrong in supposing that the £3,300 was for the whole of the fittings. About three-fourths of the fittings would not be required after the conclusion of the voyage, and the contractors were willing to take them back at a fixed price. As to the increase for telegraphic communication, it was due to telephonic connection at the principal dockyard ports.

Mr. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) wished to know the principle on which the £340 now asked for was distributed for religious institutions. If it was between all the religious institutions in the land the amount was very inadequate. It was very important that there should be an equable distribution between the different denominations, and that no invidious distinction should be made between Nonconformists and Church bodies. Precisely the same remark applied to allowances to ministers of religion. With regard to the hire of foreign interpreters, it was admitted on all sides that it was better to have a knowledge of modern languages than of Latin and Greek ; and it would certainly be a great advantage for naval officers themselves to be able to speak languages instead of employing interpreters. It was impossible to carry on a really satisfactory conversation through an interpreter, as he was always likely to put his own gloss on the matter.

Captain NORTON asked whether the Committee were to understand that these contributions in aid of religious institutions were for the purpose of encouraging or developing religion. If that was the object the amount was totally inadequate. If, however, the contributions were merely doles to certain religious institutions, the Committee were entitled to know whether any undue preference was given to any one sect over another. In regard to the contributions to sailors' homes, he asked how many of those homes there were, and how much was given to each. Surely the home at Portsmouth received more than £50, as it would be manifestly unfair to give only that sum to such a home, doing so much work, and to give an exactly similar amount to some small institution which did comparatively little. As to the hire of interpreters, were those interpreters in out-of-the-way places and for languages not usually studied ? It would also be interesting to know whether any incentive was given to naval cadets and officers to perfect themselves in modern languages. In most other navies the officers before they entered the service were encouraged to learn at least English as one language, and special facilities were given to enable them to visit other countries for the purpose of passing as interpreters. A somewhat similar system prevailed with regard to our own officers in the Army, especially those attached to the Indian Army with reference to the learning of Russian. Was there any such system in connection with the Navy? In view of the vast development of the Russian navy, the fact that Russia had now an outlet in the Pacific, and seeing that our Fleet in Chinese waters had been increased, some incentive ought to be given to our naval officers to study Russian. Twenty years ago positively not a single officer in the Army knew Russian, and at the present moment he believed only one officer in the Navy had a knowledge of the language. If any misfortune happened to that particular officer we should have to depend upon an interpreter, who, in all probability, would be a Polish Jew, to negotiate between ourselves and the Russians upon any matter connected with the Navy. The training of carrier pigeons also was a matter of considerable importance. It was known that quite recently a pigeon-loft had been erected at Aldershot, and a distinguished officer placed in charge thereof. In Continental centres pigeons had been used for some time and found of the greatest value, and certainly they could be used with much advantage in the event of naval warfare between ourselves and any Continental Power. He therefore asked whether there was a proper loft for the training of these pigeons ; if so, where ; and also whether there was any intention of extending the practice, so as to provide a complete system of pigeon carriers throughout the British Isles.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the Committee might rest assured that the small sum of £350 for contributions to religious denominations was not spent in propping up any particular denomination. Small contributions were given in large dockyard towns in assisting institutions connected with the places of worship attended by the sailors, and one denomination was not favoured more than another. With regard to the hire of interpreters, he believed that a considerable portion of the amount was with reference to interpreters in Chinese, and he could hardly suppose the hon. Member would suggest that naval officers should qualify in that language. It might be possible to encourage the study of French and German among boys before they entered the "Britannia"; but it was one of the misfortunes of the naval service that it was not possible to give enough leave to junior officers to enable them to study foreign languages abroad. Facilities were afforded for the study of Russian, and a gratuity of £150 was paid to any officer who would qualify as an interpreter in Russian. This year steps had been taken to improve young officers in regard to their knowledge of foreign languages.

CAPTAIN NORTON said the Secretary to the Admiralty did not state whether opportunities were afforded these officers to study Russian in Russia, as well as granting them £150. No man could acquire a good knowledge of Russian without six months residence at Moscow. ["Oh, oh."] He was speaking from experience, and he knew that no man could get anything like a knowledge of the Russian language without spending six months in some portion of the Russian Empire. It was absurd to offer £150, because living was so dear abroad. If the only incentive to learn Russian was the granting of a bonus of £150 after a man had succeeded in passing a most difficult examination, this inducement was practically a dead letter.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he understood that the answer given by the hon. Gentleman applied to places of worship largely frequented by Marines and seamen. There was an item of £7,300 in the Vote given to ministers of religion. He wished to know whether the sum given to ministers of religion was distributed in the same way as the sum given to religious and charitable institutions. Was it given in a proportionate manner, and without regard to any particular denomination?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that at the ports frequently or occasionally visited by men-of-war money was granted to ministers of various denominations, some of the ministers belonging to the Church of England, others to the Roman Catholics, and some to the Nonconformists. Altogether some 200 or 300 grants were made, varying in amount from £25 to £200. He had no reason to believe that the sums granted were inadequate. With regard to interpreters, while facilities were given to officers on half-pay to study foreign languages abroad, the duties of the naval service were such that it was very rare indeed that naval officers, especially junior naval officers, could go to foreign countries.

CAPTAIN NORTON asked if it was at all likely that any naval officer occupying the position of a naval commander could go to Russia to study Russian under such circumstances.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER replied that it was not at all unlikely. They did it in the Army, and he hoped advantage would be taken of this offer in the Navy.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) desired to know on what principle the money granted to ministers was allocated. Was it distributed according to the number of men who attended the services?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that in some cases the money was allocated in accordance with the number of men who attended a particular place of worship, and in some cases according to the services of the minister. If the hon. Member desired to see the list of these ministers he should be very pleased to allow him the opportunity of doing so, and he would give him any further information which he desired. They were spread not only throughout the United Kingdom, but all over the world, and the money was distributed without regard to any particular denominations.

CAPTAIN NORTON asked if the Secretary to the Admiralty could state whether it was true or not that at the present moment there was not a single commander in the Navy qualified to act as an interpreter in Russian. Some further incentive should be given to officers of all ranks, and they should be placed in the same position as the officers in the Indian Army, who were allowed to draw their full pay, their bonus, and their travelling expenses during the whole time they were away in Russia studying that language. Seeing the importance of officers possessing a knowledge of Russian at the present time, he wished to know whether the Admiralty were prepared to offer the officers in the Navy similar advantages in regard to the study in Russian to those at present offered to the officers in the Indian Army.

MR. LAMBERT said the hon. Gentleman had not told them directly that no denomination was favoured under his scheme. If the sailors went to the Established Church, surely they did not want to give another salary to the minister. If the sailors went to a Nonconformist place of worship, then there would be an excuse for adding something to the very small salaries which Nonconformist ministers received. They did not want any favouritism displayed, and if the Admiralty were going to endow any particular denomination they would object to it in the strongest possible way. He wished to know by whom the grants were made. He felt that unless he was able to get a satisfactory assurance from the hon. Member on these points he should have to take the sense of the House about giving a new endowment to a particular religious denomination.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS pointed out that the Secretary to the Admiralty had not given any information with reference to the training of carrier pigeons. The hon. Member for Devonport raised that question, and he showed that the German Government gave every possible facility to this system. He wished to know whether the Government were going to afford similar facilities in this country. It was a question of the most important nature, because our international relations were now of a kaleidoscopic character and we ought to be fully prepared. With regard to languages, he knew that a great many Russian officers spoke English, and he thought this language ought to be encouraged more amongst English naval officers.

MR. LAMBERT said that as a protest against the vague manner in which the questions he raised had been answered, he would move to reduce the Vote by £40.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item T be reduced by £40, in respect of Contributions in Aid of Religious Institutions."—(*Mr. Lambert.*)

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said there was only one Church represented on His Majesty's vessels, and that was the Established Church. Therefore the amount voted under this Vote to chaplains was a new form of endowment of the Established Church, and should be so treated.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This Vote has nothing to do with chaplains on board ship.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has mistaken the item, which relates to contributions made to religious and charitable institutions.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 130; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 113.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.

Captain Norton.

Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Donelan, Capt. A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Joyce, Michael
Kitson, Sir James

Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Partington, Oswald
Phillips, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph

Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lambert and Mr. Kearley.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer

Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, T. R (T'r H'mlets, S Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fletcher, Sir Henry

Garfit, William
Gordon, Rt Hn J E (Elgin & N'irn
Gordon, Maj. E. (T'wer H'mlts.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (M'dx)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col W. (Salop.)
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman

Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hon W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt. Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, Wm. Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Peel, Hn. William Robert W.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederick C.
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Richie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, H C (Northumb Tyns'ide
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, Arthur S. (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

Original Question again proposed.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he understood that the Government would be not unwilling to meet them in reference to certain Estimates if they granted facilities for the passage of Votes 10, 11, 13, and 15. Vote 3 was a labour Vote, in which, as a South London Member, he took very special interest, for it contained a very hard case of some 300 men who were employed by the Government at a wage of only 20s. per week, out of which they were obliged to pay some 9s. per week for rooms. This was a scandal to any Government, and he took it that this Vote would not be placed after Votes 8, 9, and 12, but that Vote 2 would be taken first.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER'S reply was inaudible.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he did not wish to prolong the discussion in regard to naval interpreters, but the answer he had received had been most unsatisfactory. He expressed the hope that increased facilities would be given to naval officers to acquire Continental languages.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) asked if the question of the Catholic chaplains in the Navy could be raised on Vote 11, or whether it would be more properly taken on Vote 12.

*THE CHAIRMAN did not think the question of Catholic chaplains in the Navy could be raised on the Vote under discussion, as what was proposed was to give a sum of money to ministers of religion on shore.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he wished to put it to the Secretary to the Admiralty that if it were good policy to have religious services for sailors of all denominations, it was part of that policy that the Estimates should contain an allowance for chaplains on shore. He had been told by men connected with the Navy that the service ashore was not altogether of the kind which met the spiritual needs and habits of the sailors. For that reason, it was very difficult to get the sailors to leave their ships and go to service on shore. Therefore, if the Secretary to the Admiralty had to choose between having a chaplain on shore and a chaplain with a place on board ship, and chose the former, he would be making an unwise decision, and one not in consonance with the feelings and habits of sailors. This was a question on which his countrymen felt very strongly. It had been raised for a quarter of the century, and no solution of it had yet been found.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that the Vote was not for any services held on His Majesty's ships. It was simply for allowances, either by grant or contribution, in respect to attendance on the services of ministers who were not connected in any way with the Royal Navy.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND accepted the statement of the hon. Gentleman, but said he would take an early opportunity of calling attention to the fact that not a single penny was given to any minister except ministers of the Church of England. He had not the slightest objection to ministers of the Church of England receiving allowances; but it was unfair that the Roman Catholic and the Nonconformist ministers received no allowances. He would also raise the question of the rank of Catholic chaplains on board ship and on shore. The Catholic priest on shore did not get the same rank as the Protestant clergyman.

Captain NORTON said he had no desire to go to a division, for the hon. Gentleman had met them very fairly; but they must have some explanation in regard to the question of interpreters. The hon. Member for the Stroud Division of Gloucestershire had told him that he had spent six months in Russia, and that the result was practically nil; and, therefore, unless some special incentive was given to officers to study languages, the result would be that in Chinese matters they would have no officer capable of interpreting in Russian. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would do everything possible to give an incentive to either half-pay or full-pay officers to study languages.

*Mr. ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) said that the hon. Member for West Newington had exaggerated a little, but was in the main correct. He had worked very hard at Russian at home, and then went out to Russia, where he studied for six months, working eight hours a day, and living with a Russian family the whole time. At the end of that period he found that, while he could get along well enough with reading novels and the newspapers, he could not read documents or anything of that kind. His experience was that nobody could go to Russia and learn Russian to an extent that would be really useful under twelve months solid hard work.

Question put and agreed to.

3. £790,900, Half-Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay.

4. £340,600, Civil Pensions and Gratuities.

5. £219,000, Medical Establishments and Services.

6. £16,200, Martial Law, etc.

Mr. KEARLEY said he wished under this Vote to refer to the ineligibility of Marine officers to sit on courts-martial when afloat. They had the privilege when ashore not only to sit on courts-martial but even to act as president; but, notwithstanding the fact that the Marine officers constituted one-fifth of the *personnel* of the Navy, they had not that right when serving afloat. This matter was brought before the House many years ago by Sir John Pope Hennessy, who was assured by the First Lord of the Admiralty of the day that the matter would be remedied. He, in fact, went out of his way to emphasise his definite promise by saying that the Naval Lords of the Admiralty recognised the justice of the claims of the Marine officers. He was aware that it was said that if this claim were to be conceded the doctors and the paymasters would demand the same privileges. He had nothing to do with that. All he asserted was that the Marines were a large and effective force in the Navy, and thought by some to be the best body of men in the service of the country; and it was monstrous that they should be excluded from this privilege, and it bred a great amount of discontent. The seaman part of the Navy entertained a prejudice against Marine officers sitting on courts-martial; they would exclude everybody from enjoying any privilege which they enjoyed. They had also the greatest possible objection to giving the engineer officers the position they ought to take; but he did not raise that point specifically at this moment, although engineer officers were precluded from sitting on courts-martial. He appealed to the hon. Gentleman, and to any fair-minded man in the House, as to whether this privilege should any longer be denied to the Marine officers, and he hoped that the hon. Gentleman would be able to give a pledge that this injustice would be remedied.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said he entirely supported the view that Marine officers who were combatant officers, and who were equal in every respect, except that of handling the ships, to the naval officers should be eligible to sit on courts-martial on board ship. It did not follow that any admiral at sea would be compelled to appoint a Marine officer on any particular court-martial, but Marine officers should be eligible to sit according to their rank. He well remembered the distinct pledge given by a former First Lord of the Admiralty that this would be remedied. He wished to take exception to the use of the word "prejudice," on the part of naval officers, by the hon. Member for Devonport. Whatever prejudice there might have been in the past there was none now. Looked at from every point of view, to concede this function to the Marine officers would be to the advantage of the public service. He would remind the Committee, moreover, that the Marine officers, whether infantry or artillery, were the only officers instructed in the principles of law. He knew how keenly this matter was felt in the service, and, in the interests of the efficiency of the service and the well-being of the Fleet, he hoped it would be remedied.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) said that Marine officers not being eligible to sit on courts-martial at sea, involved not only an injustice to the Marine officers, but to the men. The Marines would have much greater confidence in the equity of the courts-martial if their own officers were allowed to sit upon them.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that the hon. Members who had spoken had put very forcibly their arguments in favour of the concession. It happened that at present officers of the Royal Marines were qualified to sit on courts-martial ashore, but not afloat. In his opinion, if ever the Admiralty were to change their views with regard to this subject, it appeared to him, that it would be preferable that the Marines should take their places on courts-martial as officers of the Navy, and not merely as assessors representing the Marines, there being, as far as he was aware, no such want of confidence in the existing courts as had been suggested by the junior Member for Devonport.

Resolution agreed to.

7. £100,600, Educational Services.

8. £65,800, Scientific Services.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

9. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £119,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

MR. COURTENAY WARNER pointed out that no one representing the War Office was present, and asked whether, under the circumstances, this Vote might be postponed.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) asked whether, seeing the difficulty in which the Committee was placed, it would not be better to postpone the Vote until the questions which it was desired to raise could be answered by some representative of the War Office.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The hon. Gentleman appreciates what has happened. The arrangement between the two sides of the House has produced, as it sometimes does, an amazing drying up of the fountains of eloquence, with the result that Votes have been obtained with regard to subjects which to all appearances would have kept the Committee many hours in discussing. This is very satisfactory and gratifying, but my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War, not expecting this happy consummation, has gone to the War Office to carry on his exceptionally laborious duties. I have, however, telephoned for my right hon. friend, and expect him to arrive in a few minutes; so if hon. Gentlemen do not mind putting their questions, I will take them down and my right hon. friend will be able to answer them when he comes.

Captain NORTON disclaimed any desire to take an unfair advantage of the absence of the Secretary for War. He desired to point out that a stereotyped sum of £550 was put down for promoting efficiency in languages. This was exactly the same sum as had been voted last year, and he regretted that the War Office had not seen fit to offer an increased incentive to our officers to study modern languages. At the present time we were suffering severely in South Africa from the lack of knowledge on the part of our officers of the Dutch language. He contrasted the difference between the expenditure of this country in this way with that of continental countries, and urged that facilities should be given to officers to learn the language of every country with which we were likely to be at war.

Mr. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) suggested that the War Office ought to go a little further, and in Army schools facilities should be given to learn foreign languages. It was, he said, absurd to suppose that the ridiculous sum of £550 was sufficient for a nation like this to spend on such a subject. The War Office had not grasped the importance of the question. Every year more men of superior education entered the ranks in the hopes of obtaining a commission, and every facility should be given in the Army schools for men to acquire, at all events, a knowledge of French and German. Possibly it would be a little difficult to learn Chinese in London, although, no doubt, that could be accomplished with great trouble. Something might be done also for the non-commissioned officers, with great deal of advantage to the Army and themselves, by a more modern system of what in civil life was called secondary education for the young men who were training for Army schoolmasters. He hoped there would be less of the hide-bound idea of the War Office in putting down this stereotyped sum. The hon. and gallant Member had referred to the absolute lack of knowledge of Dutch among our officers in South Africa, but he had always noticed that if a man learnt a language there was no recognition of the fact. He hoped when the Army Estimates were gone into next year special attention would be given to these subjects.

Captain NORTON suggested that some system analogous to that in force in India should be adopted. Certain bonuses were given when a certain standard of efficiency was reached in the various languages of India. That system had, so far as India was concerned, given very beneficial results, and should be adopted here with regard to European languages.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman pleads the same cause as he did when the Navy Estimates were before the House, and I have considerable sympathy with the views expressed, and I have no doubt that it would be of advantage to both the naval and military Services if there were more knowledge of foreign languages among the officers. But the English are not a nation much given to learning foreign languages. I think my hon. friend goes rather too far in suggesting that Chinese is one of the languages which our soldiers ought to learn, for the reason, as I have been informed by gentlemen familiar with Chinese trade, that the common means of communication even among the Chinese themselves is by what is known as pidgin-English. When we come to French and German it is a different matter, but I notice my right hon. friend has now returned to the House, and he will deal with the subject as affecting his Department.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said that when he raised this question last year considerable sympathy was expressed from the Treasury Bench. He noticed, however, that the amount in the Estimates remained as before, and no move whatever had been made in the matter, so far as he could see. It was a very important matter, and he hoped something would be attempted before the Estimates came up for discussion next year.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) said he would consider well the subject before presenting the Estimates next year. In the press of many matters since he came into office this particular Vote had not engaged his attention.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 179; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 114).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cremer, William Randal
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cust, Henry John C
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar, T R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(Tr H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry S Edm'ds
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Ld. G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Helme, Norval Watson
Higginbottom, S. W.
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fare'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D J. (Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
Philipps, John Wynford
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederick C.
Rea, Russell
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg., Gower
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Chas. G E. (Notts
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath)

Sir Charles Dilke.

Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hayden, John Patrick
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Samuel, S.M. (Whitechapel)
Sullivan, Donal
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

10. £218,200, Miscellaneous Effective Services.

11. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,485,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals, and the In-Pensioners thereof; of Out-Pensions; of the maintenance of Lunatics for whom Pensions are not drawn; and of Gratuities awarded in Commutation and in lieu of Pensions, of Rewards for Meritorious Services; of Victoria Cross Pensions; and of Pensions, &c., to the Widows and Children of Warrant officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men, &c., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

MR. KEARLEY wished to raise the question of the pensions granted to the widows and orphans of those who had fallen in active service in South Africa. This was an important new departure on the part of the Government. It had for the first time recognised its responsibility towards the dependents of those who had sacrificed their lives in the service of the State. He was sure the country viewed with great pleasure this new departure, and they would vote the money with the greatest satisfaction, because the country had become aware of the fact that in recent years much suffering had happened to the widows and dependents of those who had fought courageously for us in various parts of the world, and for whom no provision had been made by the State in the past. With regard to the amount the Government had detailed to the various ranks he had nothing whatever to say. Seeing that it was taxpayers' money, he thought a provision of 5s. per week, and 1s. 6d. per child, for the widow of an ordinary soldier or sailor was as much as could reasonably be expected. The pensions rose according to the rank or rating of the man who lost his life. He could not understand why the pensions were being withheld so long. A Committee had recommended that the pensions should be paid as from 1st April, but they were being withheld until 1st July. Even then the pensions were only to be given to the widows and orphans of those who were on the married establishment; the widows and orphans of men who married off the strength, that was (he supposed) without permission, were to be ignored so far as the Government was concerned. This was inexplicable. What was to become of these widows and orphans? The husband and father fought for his country, and the country would not recognise the distinction which the War Office was trying to make. If these widows were to be handed over to the tender mercies of the Patriotic Commission, God help them! The past history of the Commission had been exposed and condemned by every newspaper throughout the land. When money got into the Commissioners' hands it stopped in that stagnant pool and its circulation ceased. The Soldiers' Effects Fund should be applicable to the pensions which the War Office proposed under this Vote. He asked the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War whether in future the money belonging to that fund should not be handed over to the Patriotic Commission for administration.

*THE CHAIRMAN: You cannot discuss that on this Vote.

MR. KEARLEY, said he was sorry he could not proceed with that subject, because this was the only opportunity for raising it. During the debate on the Address in reply to His Majesty's Speech, when an Amendment was moved, they were debarred from raising the question. The hon. Member asked the Secretary for War to give the reasons which had influenced the War Department to come to the decision that the widows of men who married off the strength of the regiment were not to get the benefit of this Vote. They were probably the most numerous of the whole lot. He was sure the country would be painfully shocked when it realised that these widows were to be left to look for assistance to outside funds. He hoped it was not too late now to come to some other decision.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that as a soldier he agreed that some distinction should be made between the widows and orphans of men borne on the establishment of regiments and those who had married off the strength. But surely the latter should have some allowance, if not the same allowance as the widows and orphans of men who had been on the strength. He did not mean that they should be placed exactly on a par with the widows and orphans of men whose conduct had been exemplary, but he thought some consideration should be shown to them. The whole history of the Patriotic Fund was that the Commissioners of the fund had made no effort to help those who properly came on the fund. So he hoped something would be done for the widows and orphans of those who, although they married off the strength of their regiments, had also died in their country's service.

MR. DUKE (Plymouth) expressed the hope that the Government would do more for the survivors of the men who had married off the strength. The men had sacrificed their lives for the country, and a generous view ought to be taken of the cases of those whom they had left in a state of destitution. The number of men who married off the strength was very great. If a man gave his life for the country the question of discipline should be sunk and something should be done in a spirit of generosity. He suggested also that the pay of a man who had been killed should be continued to his widow until she became entitled to the pension she was to receive.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) stated that in the House of Lords on Monday last Lord Monkswell asked—

> "whether any alterations had been made since the commencement of the South African War in the dates and system of awarding pensions to soldiers disabled by wounds and sickness due to active service; and whether His Majesty's Paymaster General, as Chairman of the Board of Chelsea Commissioners, could give any information on the subject."

In reply to that question the Duke of Marlborough said—

> "that it would be very unfortunate if there were any wounded soldiers going about the country who were not adequately provided for. Previous to the South African War—for example, the campaign in Egypt—soldiers who were wounded, and consequently discharged from the Service, received an award from the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital at a rate which they considered to represent the permanent loss in the earning power of the individual as a result of his wound. In the case of private soldiers who were partially able to earn, the rates varied from 6d. to 1s. 6d. In the case of soldiers who were quite unable to earn, the rates were from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. These pensions, when granted, became permanent. Since the commencement of the South African War no alteration had been made in the rate of the pensions to wounded soldiers in the Royal Warrant. That was to say, no wounded man, partially disabled, could get more than 1s. 6d., and no man who was totally disabled could get more than 2s. 6d. But the Commissioners had unanimously decided to make a somewhat new departure, and, in nearly every case, to grant the maximum amount of pension at once."

The hon. Member said he had had many instances brought to his notice in which men had been in receipt of one shilling a day. That seemed to be in direct contradiction to the statement by the Duke of Marlborough. He thought a statement should be made to the House showing exactly what these men were entitled to. Referring to the non-effective Vote for officers and men, he said he thought that, unless some greater provision was made for the men, the scheme to increase the number of men in the Army would be a serious disappointment to the House.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member who introduced this subject put one or two questions with regard to the widows of men who have died in the war. I know full well how great is the sympathy of the House for the men who have lost their lives in the war, and for those whom they have left behind them. The Government has for the first time in our history recognised the claims of these widows by giving pensions to the widows of non-commissioned officers and men. In taking that step they have been fully justified by the feeling of the country. But hon. Gentlemen have trenched on rather a difficult question by proposing that this advantage should be given, not merely to those who are married on the strength, but also to those who are married not on the strength of a regiment. That point has been very carefully and sympathetically considered by the Government. The Government are the guardians of the public purse in this matter, and the charge which is likely to accrue will be a very heavy one. But there is also something besides that. It is not the desire of the Government that the great majority of soldiers who join at the age of eighteen should marry at an early age and have families dependent upon them. In the first place, a soldier's pay does not properly allow of it, and, secondly, he has to move at any moment from his station and go abroad, and a large number of families would mean a serious impediment. On the other hand, if these families are left behind it will entail the greatest possible misery and privation to those who become dependent on soldiers who can only spare a very small amount out of their pay. If we were to go back on our decision with regard to pensions, to give them only to those married on the strength, we should be encouraging to a very great extent this kind of improvidence, and when we sent the men abroad we should have to give separation allowances to their wives and families. That would be an enormous charge to contemplate. Then there is another difficulty. There are three classes, I believe, who at this moment are entitled to separation allowances. The first are the men of the Reserve who are married, the second those who are married on the strength, and the third those who have married in anticipation of going into the Reserve and have been kept on by the terms of service until the end of the war. My constituency abuts on Aldershot, and I can say this, that when the Reserves were called up in November of 1899, it being found that separation allowance was being granted and also that money was being granted from charitable funds to the wives of those who went on active service, a very large number of marriages took place, in the cases of Reservists who were not already married, within a day or so of embarkation. There were a considerable number of cases in which men who sailed on 27th November had married on 25th November or 26th November, and whose wives claimed at once to have the allowance. I think the step proposed would be very unwise, more especially as there are charitable funds which are available for the limited number of widows, as they are at present, who married men off the strength. With regard to the administration of the Patriotic Fund, I had the pleasure of sitting on a Committee with the hon. Member respecting that fund, and I was in favour, as the hon. Gentleman was, of more generous distribution of the fund. It was found that the administration of the fund was economical in the first degree, and that the money went straight to those for whom it was intended. But we thought that a larger class might be included, and the inquiry about to take place will deal with that point. There is no doubt whatever that those widows who cannot be provided for by the Government, owing to the regulations giving the allowance only to those on the strength, can and will be provided for by the Patriotic Fund. I think the House would be unwise to insist on provision being made out of public funds on their behalf. The rules and regulations have not yet actually been got out, and will not be got out by the 1st April. Therefore 1st July has been adopted as the most convenient date. I really do not think that the provision which Parliament is asked to make for the widows of those who have fallen in the war is an illiberal one. Certainly my own desire has been to get this subject settled on an efficient and proper basis, remembering, as I do, that there is the strongest disposition on the part of Parliament, after these Votes have been given and when abuse has been found to have occurred, to find fault with the Government for not having foreseen the point at which they should have stopped. I hope in this particular case, having in view the extreme undesirability of putting in the way of our soldiers the temptation of making improvident marriages in the hope of getting separation allowances, the Committee will rest satisfied with the arrangement the Government propose.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and, forty Members being found present—

Mr. LEVY asked whether the Secretary of State for War could not see his way clear to make adequate arrangements whereby those men who were returned from South Africa partially or totally disabled should not have to eke out an existence on the mere pittance of one shilling a day. Many of these men had wives to keep, and it was a scandal that those men who had fought our battles in South Africa, and who had been incapacitated, should be compelled to live on charity. He noticed that the amount put in the Estimates for non-effective officers was something like £800 more than it used to be. It was the first duty of the Government to make ample provision in their Estimates for those soldiers who were incapacitated in the war, and who were thus prevented from earning their own living. He had seen in his own district many men who had been totally incapacitated, and they told him that all they got was one shilling a day. He should be very glad if the Secretary of State for War would state whether it was not possible to make some reasonable provision for these men.

Mr. KEARLEY said he could not allow the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War to pass without some comment. The decision of the War Office in respect to the case of soldiers who married off the strength had been arrived at, they were told, as a question of policy. The question of justice and common humanity was left out of consideration altogether. The widows of men who had lost their lives in the service of the country were not to receive pensions, because, as a matter of policy, it would be inexpedient to encourage men to marry.

Mr. BRODRICK: Does the hon. Member suggest that the whole Army should be allowed to marry off the strength?

Mr. KEARLEY replied that the right hon. Gentleman was simply begging the question. At the present time we were recognising the claims of some widows who were no more entitled to recognition than in the instances he had raised. At present the War Office recognised the claims of the widows of Reservists who married a day or two before they sailed for South Africa. The right hon. Gentleman said that if they recognised the claims of the widows of those soldiers who had married without consent, that would be encouraging others to do the same. The real question was whether these widows were to have uniformity of treatment, and that question had been evaded by the speculative theories put forward by the Secretary for War as to what might happen if these widows were recognised. Did the Government propose to throw these women and children on the world to pick up promiscuous charity? If that was so, he had no hesitation in saying that such a decision would not receive the approval of the country. A great number of Reservists, when they discovered that funds were being raised, married a day or two before going out to the war. Did the right hon. Gentleman suggest that those men married in order to get the paltry sum which was offered them? It was a feature of this war that many of their officers married just before they went away. Did the right hon. Gentleman allege that they married with some ulterior motive? The Secretary for War had told them that the number of the class of widows for whom he was pleading was very few, and sooner than bring them into this Vote the right hon. Gentleman preferred to make them an exception in order not to encourage young soldiers to marry. If the House of Commons were left to decide the question there would not be a vote against including in the pension list the whole of these widows. The right hon. Gentleman went out of his way to endeavour to whitewash the Patriotic Commissioners. He was free to admit that the Committee which sat on the administration of the fund found no abuses in regard to expense of management, and so on; but they did find that the Commissioners had hoarded instead of administering the funds at their disposal, and he hoped the day was not very remote when those funds would be taken out of their hands altogether. He wished to know what was to be the medium through which this payment to the widows was to be made. Were the payments to go through the Army and Navy officials, or through some other outside body? They had perfect confidence in the War Office and the Admiralty administering the pensions, but if it was to be delegated to the Patriotic Commissioners, there would be a good deal of objection. When these men went away a year ago amid the cheering crowds, everybody declared that their widows would not suffer, and that the country would look after them. Now that the war fever had died out they were asked to accept the decision that the unfortunate widows and orphans of those who married off the strength were to be cast upon the world to pick up such sustenance as they could in the day of their trouble.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince), speaking as an old soldier, said he had no doubt whatever that it would be a most dangerous thing for the Secretary of State for War to class the widows of those who had married without leave with the widows of those who were married with leave. It would be a most serious thing to induce a lot of young fellows, just before going out to the war, to marry their sweethearts. At the same time, he felt most strongly that cases might arise which the commanding officer of a regiment should have the power of bringing before the Patriotic Fund or some fund of that kind with a view to the unfortunate widow of a man who had married without leave receiving proper treatment.

CAPTAIN NORTON said it had been suggested that some distinction should be drawn between those who had married on the strength and those who had married without leave. The issue was now narrowed down to this—that the widows of the men who had married without the permission of their commanding officers and had then gone out to South Africa and had died were to be left to die in the workhouse.

MR. BRODRICK dissented.

CAPTAIN NORTON said the right hon. Gentleman shook his head, and perhaps he thought that outside charitable organisations would make some provision for them. The Member for Devonport had been for years contending that the Patriotic Commissioners had not done their work satisfactorily. What they asked in the name of the country was for some assurance from the right hon. Gentleman that the funds subscribed by the public for the support of those whose relatives died in South Africa should be handed over to some body distinctly under the control of this House, so that there should be money available for pensions for the widows and orphans of those who, though they had transgressed the rules by marrying without leave, were entitled to consideration at the hands of the country. The sum of £160,000, representing the unclaimed balances due to the relatives of deceased soldiers who had died in the service, was handed over to the Patriotic Commissioners, who hoarded it up for future use instead of distributing it. The country was enthusiastic with the men who went out to South Africa, and they were distinctly led to believe that those they left behind would be provided for. If those outside funds were properly administered they would then have the distinction which was asked for, and that would be quite sufficient to deal with the case of the widows of those soldiers who were not on the strength.

MR. BRODRICK: There appears to be some misunderstanding on the part of the hon. Gentleman opposite. I told the Committee an hour ago that the Government could not undertake to recognise the claims of those who had married off the strength on the same basis as those who had married with leave. The hon. Member for Devonport has made a most impassioned speech, but he does not appear to have grasped the nature of the answer which I gave. I added frankly that I think their claims are claims to be recognised by the Patriotic Fund, and that I know the Patriotic Fund will recognise them.

MR. KEARLEY: Under what compulsion? Will the Government undertake to see that they do administer the funds?

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Gentleman's mistrust of this body carries him too far. It is a body composed of trustees of undoubted position, many of them members of this and the other House of Parliament, and all of whom have shown that their only desire is to administer the fund so that they shall have security that all those who are upon it shall receive the pensions given to them to the end of their lives. The hon. Member thinks the Commissioners have been a little too conservative, and so do I, but the pressure that the House of Commons can exercise has been put upon them to induce them to take up a less conservative attitude. As far as the Government are concerned, our position is this—we have undertaken the charge of all those who married on the strength and those who married with a reasonable expectation that they would shortly come into the Reserve, and have gone into the Reserve since they went out to South Africa. I have brought all these men under the rule. But I cannot admit that we can consider the widows of those who married off the strength in one category for one purpose and in another category for another purpose. What I do say is that those who married on the strength will receive pensions from the Government, and that those who married off the strength will be provided for by the Patriotic Fund, and I will take care that any influence I can bring to bear will be exercised in the direction of their being treated with the generosity and sympathy which we all desire to see exercised.

MR. KEARLEY asked if the right hon. Gentleman would consult the Government as to the desirability of making a small contribution to the Patriotic Fund, to enable the House to discuss the doings of the managers of that fund.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) said he wished to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman on behalf of two women who were not widows. On the previous day, in his capacity as a medical man, he had visited these women, whose husbands were at the front. One of these women had five children; a sixth being dead. He could assure the Committee that if they could only realise the situation of dire distress in which these two women and their children were, they would hurl the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War from the Treasury Bench if he refused to give assistance. Someone had asked if the doctors would attend gratuitously women and children in such cases. He had done so, although entirely opposed to the war, for the past twelve months, and was, therefore, in a better position than other hon. Members to tell the Committee of the dire necessity in which many of these poor people were. They were living from hand to mouth, though they got a little assistance now and then from ladies from the West End. They talked about the Patriotic Fund, but why did not the Government step in and help? What had been done with all the money collected by the *Telegraph* and other journals? The way that money had been dispensed was a disgrace to London.

*The CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Gentleman was discussing a War Office matter, which did not come under the Vote before the Committee.

Dr. AMBROSE said he would not proceed to discuss the distribution of the money collected, but he protested against the cold-blooded treatment meted out by the War Office to the wives and children of men who had given their lives to their country, ever since Crimean days.

Mr. BRODRICK said the Government could not guarantee to give a separation allowance to women who had married off the strength, and who were not entitled to it.

Mr. PHILIPPS (Pembrokeshire) said he did not care twopence whether a woman married on the strength or off the strength. If a soldier married without leave, let the right hon. Gentleman deal with him in his own way and punish him, but if that soldier went to the front and was killed his widow and children ought to get a pension from the State. They had heard a good deal about getting recruits and about reforms at the War Office, but here was the right hon. Gentleman making speeches saying that if a soldier married without leave his widow, if he were killed, might, with luck, and if there were funds in the hands of the Patriotic Commissioners, get a small allowance. That was all very fine, but he maintained the widows ought to be provided for by the country. However great the taxation was going to be, he believed the representatives of the taxpayers of the country would be perfectly prepared to vote the money to all the sufferers from the war. A good deal of money had been voted that was not popular, including the large amount to buy Salisbury Plain. He did not think anything the Government had done was so unpopular as to vote that money and not to provide for the relief of widows from the war. He knew he would be reproached in his constituency unless he protested against money not being voted for these widows. And he believed that every Member of the House, including the Irish Members, would be ready to vote money for the widows of the men who had died for their country. It was by such actions as this of refusing pensions to widows that the right hon. Gentleman, in spite of all his eloquence, was making the war unpopular in the country and bringing down a reproach on the nation.

Mr. FLYNN said that the Irish Members had always voted against the war, but when it came to punishing, not the soldier who had married off the strength, but the innocent wife who was left alone when her soldier husband died, their feelings of indignation were roused. Surely it was stretching red tape too far to refuse gratuities to innocent sufferers. This cast-iron discipline was being carried too far in allowing the widows of the gallant men who had died of wounds in battle or from disease in South Africa, and their poor fathers and mothers, to be left to the cold charity of the workhouse. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the matter; and grant justice to the widows and orphan children.

Captain NORTON said that surely the right hon. Gentleman would consider the suggestions that had been thrown out. The question of exercising discipline over a man who had married without leave was quite different from that of making a certain allowance to the widow of a man who had died for his country.

*The CHAIRMAN rose to put the question; whereupon—

Captain NORTON: As the right hon. Gentleman does not appear willing to meet this question, I beg to move to reduce this Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question put, "That a reduced sum of £1,484,900 be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Norton.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 76; Noes, 127. (Division List No. 115.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Austin, Sir John
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Horniman, Frederick John
Joyce, Michael
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (N'rth'nts
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gow'r
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Norton and Mr. Kearley.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Bullard; Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mlets, S. Geo
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj. E.-(T'rHamlets)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (M'dd'x
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Higginbottom, S. W.
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt A H (Hants. Fareh
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir M. M.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Spear, John Ward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray

Valentia, Viscount

Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)

Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.	Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm	TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)	Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George	Mr. Anstruther and Mr.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath	Young, Commander (Berks, E.)	Hayes Fisher.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

12. £188,500, Superannuation, Compensation, Compassionate Allowances and Gratuities.

MR. FLYNN said that the Vote was a very important one, and there were various questions his hon. friends desired to raise on it; but, in view of the fact that there was an important Irish Bill (the Roman Catholic Disabilities Removal Bill), which was supported by the Irish Members, on the Order Paper, they did not desire to discuss the Vote in Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is only fair to remind hon. Members that the invariable practice on a Friday evening devoted to Supply is for the Government to move the adjournment of the House after the Votes have been disposed of.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was really serious in proposing to move the adjournment of the House at ten o'clock, and thereby preventing a large number of Members from discussing a Bill which was on the Order Paper and in which they were interested. They had been keeping very late hours recently in the House, the closure had been frequently applied, and there had been no end of statements from the Government as to the necessity of rushing Supply through the House of Commons. The Irish Members were now prepared to allow the Vote before the Committee to pass, in order that they might have an hour, or even half an hour, to take the sense of the House on the Bill on the Order Paper. The right hon. Gentleman, however, coolly told them that he intended to move the adjournment of the House at ten o'clock, and cut the Irish Members out from getting the Second Reading of a Bill which had been before the House year after year for many years, and which the right hon. Gentleman would admit engaged the interest not only of the Irish Members but of millions of His Majesty's subjects.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. Member that the question to which he is addressing himself is not the one before the Committee. He must put himself in order.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he was quite aware that, technically, he was not in order. He would not discuss the matter further, but he would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman not to allow it to go forth to the millions of people interested in the Bill that at ten o'clock at night the Irish Members would not be permitted to take the sense of the House on it.

MR. FLYNN said he did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman rightly understood him. The Irish Members were willing to allow the Vote which they had a perfect right to discuss to pass in order that they might get on to the next Order of the day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope hon. Gentlemen will understand that the course I have stated as the course which the Government feel bound to adopt has nothing whatever to do with the merits of the Bill. That is my view, and I know hon. Members will believe me. Whether they think it is desirable or not, that course is in adherence to general principle, and to general principle alone. Hon. Members will remember that under the Supply Rule Fridays are allocated to Supply, and although Bills may be put down Members interested in them go away knowing they will not come on for discussion. Further, hon. Members should remember that on Friday, being a Government day, we should put down Bills ourselves—Bills of great general importance—if we did not feel that no Bills ought to be taken on Fridays. I am sure, therefore, that hon. Members will feel with me that if the Government allowed private Members' Bills to be taken on a day which did not belong to them, it would be asking the House to accept a principle unjust in itself and most inconvenient. As far as I know anything about this Bill, there is nothing to object to in it. Its general principle, at all events, I would not have any objection to, but if the Bill were the one of all others I desired should be passed, I should still think it my duty as Leader of the House to observe the general rule which, on the whole, is a rule of expediency and for the proper order of debate, and to support the Government in declaring that on Fridays no business but Supply should be taken.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I hope it will be consistent with the rules of order to pursue this matter. The Government say that Fridays are allocated to Supply alone, and that they abstain themselves from putting down Government Bills because they intend the entire sitting to be devoted to Supply. On this occasion all the Supply put down has been practically granted. [An Hon. Member: No, no.] Technically I am correct. The right hon. Gentleman will admit that he has received facilities, and that a considerable amount of Supply has been voted. With regard to the particular Bill on the Order Paper, the right hon. Gentleman says, as far as he can observe, he sees no objection to it in principle. We now find ourselves in the position of having practically finished Supply, and still having two hours before the time for the adjournment. The next Order is a Bill to which the right hon. Gentleman takes no objection, and is it not a great hardship, to put it no higher, that we cannot have the few minutes necessary for the passing of the Second Reading of this Bill? I am most anxious not to outstep the limits of order, but I may be allowed to point out in one sentence what this Bill is. As the law stands at present, absurd restrictions exist against the existence in Ireland and England of religious orders. These religious orders, such as the Franciscans and the Jesuits, cannot by law live in the country or own property, and I do not think that there are half-a-dozen Members of the House, whatever their political opinions may be, who will not admit that that is an absurd state of law and ought to be abolished. I suggested to my hon. friend who has charge of the Bill that if the Bill were reached he should not trouble the House with a long speech, but should simply move the Second Reading. If there are objections in detail to this Bill, they can be dealt with in Committee, and all we ask is that, having let Supply go through, we should be given an opportunity of taking the Second Reading of this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman says he cannot do that because it is against precedent. I would ask him, if he takes that view so strongly, can he afford us some hope or give us some undertaking that the small modicum of time necessary to discuss the principle of this Bill will be afforded to us at another period of the session? If he will undertake to close Government business some night in time to enable us to take the Second Reading of the Bill, then we will not pursue the matter further now. If the right hon. Gentleman cannot do that, I am afraid it will be necessary for us to discuss this Vote, and also the question of the adjournment, which no doubt the right hon. Gentleman will move after the Vote is carried. I would make a conciliatory appeal to the right hon. Gentleman, and would ask him, in view of the character of the Bill, and that opposition to it is confined probably to two out of the 670 Members of the House, whether he would not make some small concession to us and give us an assurance that on a future occasion we should have half an hour, or less, in which to discuss the Bill. If he will do that, we will at once withdraw the claim we now make. I would earnestly appeal to him in the interests of that wide tolerance which I believe exists in the minds of the great majority of the Members of the House, to afford some small opportunity of dealing with this question, which, although it may not press very hardly on these religious orders, because the evasion of the law is winked at, is still regarded by the people of Ireland as a badge of inferiority and a relic of the bad old days when their religion was prescribed by law.

*The CHAIRMAN: I must point out that this discussion is irregular. The Committee now seems to be discussing the merits of the next Order on the Paper. The Vote before the Committee must be disposed of one way or the other.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I think the right hon. Gentleman might be allowed to reply.

Mr. WOLFF (Belfast, E.) said he did not wish to say anything about the Bill itself, but at all events it was understood by a great many hon. Members that on Friday nights no business except Supply would be taken. He knew one hon. Member, his hon. friend the Member for South Belfast, who would have been present if he had had any idea that the Bill would be brought forward. His hon. friend and other hon. Members went away under the impression that only Supply would be taken.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said that before the right hon. Gentleman replied perhaps he might, without discussing the merits of the Bill or infringing the rules of order, be permitted to point out a precedent for the course the right hon. Gentleman was asked to take. Last session[†] on a Government day business was disposed of at an earlier hour than was expected. The next Order was the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill. The Government moved the adjournment, but they were appealed to to allow the Bill to be dealt with, as it excited considerable interest in the House, and in answer to that appeal the Government withdrew the motion for the adjournment and allowed the Bill to be discussed. He thought that was an exact precedent, and he would ask whether the right hon. Gentleman would now follow the action of the Government on the occasion he mentioned.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have nothing whatever to complain of in the speeches of the hon. Gentlemen who have just spoken. The precedent mentioned by the hon. Gentleman is really no precedent. I was not in the House at the actual moment when the business of Supply was concluded, and, unfortunately, contrary to my directions another Order of the day was called on.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I was in the House all the time. Mr. Goschen, who was then First Lord of the Admiralty, actually moved the adjournment of the House, and it was in answer to an appeal made to him that he withdrew it.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It is perfectly true that the Government moved the adjournment, but not until after the order of the day had been called and the House had entered upon the discussion of the Bill. That was through a misapprehension of the very clear directions I had given to the Gentleman then in charge of the business of this bench. If the hon. Gentleman will consult the archives of the House he will see that I have over and over again moved the adjournment immediately after the conclusion of the business on Fridays, against Bills brought in by Gentlemen on my own side of the House and supported by the great majority of the party to which I belong, and I think as impartiality should be exercised by the Leader of the House it would be absurd to make an exception in favour of a minority as against a majority. I have nothing to do with the merits of the Bill. It is in the power of hon. Gentlemen to keep on the discussion of Supply until twelve o'clock, and I suppose they will do so if I do not give way, as I feel I cannot in honesty and honour give way. I wish I could. Then the hon. Gentleman says to me, "Give us an opportunity." Is it to be the rule of the House that whenever Supply finishes before twelve o'clock the Bill which is next Order of the Day is to have a slice of Government time for its Second Reading discussion? I think the hon. Gentleman will see that if this House is to be managed on general principles irrespective of the merits of Bills, the general principle which I have laid down is the only one which can be laid down. If I gave way now to the eloquent appeal of the hon. Gentleman, the force of which I admit, I should be perfectly helpless in dealing with any Bill in future which had any backing at all in this House, and as a matter of fact Friday would cease to be a day given to Supply, and would become a day on which those who have the power of obstructing or

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[*] See *Debates*, Fourth Series, Vol. lxxx., page 518.

discussing Supply at length would always be making bargains with the Government, that if they refrained from discussing Supply they should have the Second Reading of some Bill in which they were interested. That would be very inconvenient. Frankly I say that if the House now indicates that their view is that Friday should not be exclusively given to Supply, I shall be bound to put down Government Bills as the next orders, which would, of course, exclude private Members' Bills. I am not able to accede to the request of the hon. Gentleman. I have not dealt with it in any contentious spirit, and I am sure he will feel that no other course was open to me in the interests of equality and justice.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: The precedent quoted by the hon. Member for East Clare is scarcely a precedent in this case. I have looked the case up in *Hansard.* We were dealing with the Army Supplementary Estimates on Report of Supply, not with the ordinary business of Supply. I myself feel great sympathy with my hon. friends, but I quite understand the position the Leader of the House has taken up, and, in the general interests of our procedure, I am bound to say that his decision to keep Fridays intact for Supply is in the general interests of legislation in the House. I am sorry we could not have some pledge with reference to this Bill, because I should like to see it brought before the House and divided upon. It is a Bill which ought to have an opportunity of eliciting a vote from the House; but while I should be glad to press that view I am bound to support the decision the right hon. Gentleman has taken in the interests of public business, and because it conduces to general fair play.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said he thought the precedent mentioned by his hon. friend the Member for East Clare was very much stronger than was acknowledged by the right hon. Gentleman. The action proposed by the right hon. Gentleman would be a direct premium on loquacity. The right hon. Gentleman said he could not break a rule, but if there was a rule there should also be an exception to prove it. That was logic. The Roman Catholic Disabilities Bill was the exceptional case and deserved the consideration of the right hon. Gentleman. His hon. friend the Member for Waterford had made a moderate proposition, and if the right hon. Gentleman could not assent to the Bill being discussed now, he ought to assent to it.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must respectfully ask the Committee to come back to the matter before it. This discussion is irregular.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he would suggest that the Vote be allowed to pass, and when the Bill was taken the discussion could continue on the motion for adjournment.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to oppose the motion. My reason for doing so can be stated very clearly and briefly. We have now reached half-past 10 o'clock, and an hour and a half remains for the transaction of business. In the early part of to-day's sitting a very large amount of Government business has been transacted. No obstruction has been thrown in the way of the Government, and, having obtained all they desired, they now propose that the House should adjourn, although there remains on the Order Paper one Order of very great importance which has the support of the overwhelming majority of the House. It is a Bill entitled "Roman Catholic Disabilities Removal Bill." It would be improper for me to attempt to go in detail into the provisions of this Bill, but I may be permitted to point out that the Bill deals with a very important question, and that it has practically the unanimous support of the House. It was introduced by a private Member, and of course the opportunities of private Members in promoting legislation are very few. It has been the fate of this

Bill year after year to be defeated by the opposition of one or two Members. The opportunity has arisen for dealing with the Roman Catholic Disabilities Removal Bill now. We have an hour and a half before us, and I respectfully submit to the House that it would be a monstrous thing if, after we have helped the Government business to be transacted quickly at the earlier part of the sitting, the Government should intervene with a motion for the adjournment of the House. This matter which we desire to bring before the House is one which excites the keenest possible interest, not only in Ireland, but among large classes of the people of this country and in other parts of the Empire. Perhaps you will allow me to mention in one sentence what the object of the Bill is.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I think the House understands the object of it. I do not think you can discuss the details of the Bill now. The object is plain from the title.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: It is quite true that the object is clear on the title, but I am afraid that in these days of toleration in this country hon. Members in this House are apt to forget that there remain on the Statute Book some relics of the old Penal days.

*Mr. SPEAKER said if he allowed the hon. Member to argue the question he must allow other Members to reply.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I never had any intention of arguing the matter at all, and I will not go further than to say that the Bill proposes to remove certain religious disabilities attaching to a large class of the citizens of the Empire—disabilities which, I believe, not one per cent. of the Members of this House desire to see continued. In fact, I think I am right when I mention that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury has already stated that so far as he understands the Bill, he does not see any objection to it. I do not know anybody who has any objection, with the exception of two Members of the House, and I do put it in all seriousness, if it is not monstrously hard, after sitting up night after night since the commencement of the session helping the Government in the passage of its business—bringing to bear on the business of the Government keen interest and intelligence—that we are to be prevented now from spending ten minutes or a quarter of an hour in passing the Second Reading of a Bill of this nature. [Laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen laugh. Of course they think that if the House has been sitting late it has been the fault of the Irish Members. I will not argue the question. Possibly they think that it would have been better for the interests of the Empire if hundreds of millions of money had been voted without any discussion at all. Possibly they think that the function of the House of Commons is discussing——

*Mr. SPEAKER said the hon. Member was travelling beyond the question of the adjournment.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I quite understand that, Mr. Speaker, but what I desire to point out is that we, having been necessarily engaged night after night for prolonged hours in discussing the business of the Government, would feel it very hard to be prevented from taking advantage of this happy opportunity to-night to push forward a Bill about which there is practically no difference of opinion at all. The right hon. Gentleman pleads that there is some understanding that on Friday nights nothing but Supply should be taken. I respectfully submit to him and to the House that I think that would be an unfortunate understanding to have translated into an unwritten rule of the House. If that were so, it would be placing a direct premium, as one of my honourable friends said, upon loquacity, and upon prolonging discussion, and where you have an occasion like to-night, where large sums of money have been voted with meagre discussion, it would be hard indeed to deprive us, who have abstained from discussing these matters, of our reward when we want to bring forward this Bill. I say that it would be a monstrous scandal if the House adjourned at half-past ten when a question of this kind remains to be discussed. If this House is to retain the respect of the nation it must conduct its business in a business-like manner, and I ask seriously is it a business-like transaction, having fulfilled the particular Government business to-night, that you should adjourn at half-past ten? This is an urgent matter, upon which we are all agreed, waiting to be discussed, and which could be dealt with in a quarter of an hour. If the right hon Gentleman had not moved the adjournment of the House we might now have disposed of it to the satisfaction of the entire House, and we might have removed what is an intolerable grievance and insult to citizens of the country. Under these circumstances, I appeal to the House to take a reasonable, business-like and conciliatory attitude on this matter, and give us the few moments that are necessary out of the hour and a half that remains. This question is of the utmost importance in Ireland, and millions of people in other parts of the Empire take a keen interest in it. I cannot conceive that anybody out of sheer malice or revenge, because they thought we had prolonged discussion on other occasions, could desire to deprive the Irish Members of this opportunity of discussing this matter. That indeed would be a very ungenerous thing for the House to do. I do not believe that that feeling is animating hon. Members opposite at all. I would appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite, as we have economised time during this sitting of the House, at any rate to give us the advantage of the few moments we ask for discussing this urgent matter, and I trust the right hon. Gentleman will not persist in his motion for adjournment, and will enable us to proceed to the discussion of this matter.

MR. FLYNN said the laws of the House were surely not like the laws of the Medes and Persians. The business of Supply ordinarily ran to 12 o'clock, but were they to throw away an hour, or an hour and a half, of valuable time when Supply finished earlier, simply for the purpose of carrying out some cast-iron rule? The session had now lasted six weeks, and it was a remarkable fact that although the Irish party had some Bills they desired to bring forward only one had come before the House. Here was a chance of dealing with a grievance not only of Ireland, but of Great Britain. The sense of the House could be taken upon it in half an hour, and yet the Government seemed inclined to sit tight and stick to this stupid idea about taking no other business on Friday after Supply. This could not be quoted as a precedent, because it very rarely happened that Supply was finished before midnight. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw the motion for the adjournment, turn round and smile on his followers, and say "Let us go to a Second Reading." So far as he could see there would be no other opportunity of bringing forward the Bill this session.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.) said the British Government were supposed to govern Catholics and Protestants with equal laws, but it appeared to him that Jews and heathen had a better chance in the empire than Catholics. They could never be governed with equal laws so long as there was a ban on their faith. So confident were the supporters of this Bill in the justice of their claim, that they were prepared to accept the decision of the House upon it without discussion. They were satisfied that every honest-minded man would vote for the Bill. He acknowledged that there were a few cranks who objected to it, but they were very few. Earlier in the evening the Irish Members abstained from discussing the Votes of money, because they wished to have the opportunity of bringing this Bill before the House.

*MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): I hope the House will not set up any cast-iron rule on this occasion about allowing nothing but Supply to be taken on a Friday night, but will enable us to discuss this very important Bill. I speak as a member of the Protestant faith, and it is we, the members of that faith, who ought to be the most eager to wipe out the disgrace which this Bill proposes to remove. The disgrace does not reflect upon those who ask for this opportunity of discussing this Bill. It is upon the Protestants of this country that it rests. It is an unfortunate thing—it is a shameful thing—that in this Parliament for several years earnest and assiduous efforts to get an opportunity of wiping out this disgrace have been thwarted. Those who made those efforts have been deprived of the opportunity in the past, and they are again being deprived of it now. I say it would be more for the honour and credit of this House that this Bill should be allowed to-night to receive a Second Reading; and I therefore implore the Leader of the House not to be inexorable, but to allow this disgrace to be wiped out by allowing the Bill to be read a second time. If this opportunity is refused, the feeling of insult and wrong will be continued among the Catholics of the Empire.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) said it appeared to him that the time available for private Members' Bills was inevitably curtailed year by year. It was not unreasonable to ask that, when the Government business had been transacted, any available time should now be devoted to this Bill. It should then be left to the opposers of the Bill, irrespective of party, to move the adjournment of the House. That was the practical test to put the Bill to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend who has just spoken has not, I think, fully appreciated the exact circumstances of the case. Why was it that after Supply to-night the next Order of the day was a Bill in the hands of a private Member? The reason was that the Government had laid down as a rule and practice of the House that Friday should be devoted to Supply. The House may like or dislike that. If they dislike that rule, let them say so, and the immediate result will be that I shall put down a Government Bill as the second Order of the day, and no private Bill would ever have a chance. The whole difficulty which we are now suffering from would be obviated if I were to put down a Government measure at the end of Supply, and announce beforehand that I would not take it, but move the adjournment of the House. If the adjournment was not carried, the Government Bill would be taken. That is the course that would be adopted, and which was adopted for some time before the new Supply rule was introduced. In those days Friday was devoted first to Supply and then to Government business, but remonstrances were made to me as Leader of the House. I was told that it was not fair that I should use any time that was over for legislation. I yielded to them at the time, and I have abstained from putting down a Government Bill. Am I to be told that if the Government have abstained from using their own day for carrying on the legislation of the country, the gap is to be filled up with private Members Bills? If my hon. friend will think over the proposition he will see that it is an unreasonable one, and if the House should differ with the Government to-night as to the course I am advising the Government to pursue, it is the last time they will do it, for never again will I put down a private Member's Bill after Supply.

*MR. BELL (Derby): Why is this Bill on the Paper?

*MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman seems to think that I put it down. The hon. Member asks for information, and I will give it to him, as perhaps he is not so familiar with the practice of the House as some of us who have been longer here. As regards Government business, the Government put it down any day they please. Friday is a Government day, and therefore no Bill put down for that day by a private Member is taken until after the Government business has been finished. On the other hand, a private Member has a perfect right to put down his Bill any day he likes. Therefore the Government have only got to put down a Bill, or two Bills, or a dozen Bills, after Supply on Friday, and, of course, private Members would be absolutely excluded from any chance. We have no control over private Members, but we have to submit that when we have abstained from exercising our rights, it is rather hard that private Members should step in and violate the rule in their own interests. I hope I have made that clear to hon. Gentlemen opposite who are advocating the Second Reading of the Bill. Hon. Members from Ireland state that the Government owe them some little compensation for all the hard work they have been doing for the Government. I can assure hon. Members that, if there are hon.

Members on my own side of the House who consider that the action of the Irish Members during recent weeks has not been such as to recommend to the general favour and attention of the House any of their requests, in the action we have taken on the present occasion there is no consideration of that kind nor any tincture or flavour of revenge. The course we have taken to-night is one which I have previously taken against the almost unanimous desire of my own friends, and they have again and again protested to the gentleman in charge of the general management of the business of the House against the hard-heartedness of the Government in insisting that after Supply was finished the House should adjourn. Hon. Members opposite say that this Bill is for the purpose of removing a great and standing scandal. I am not going to discuss the merits of the Bill. They have also mentioned that they have been fortunate in the ballot this year. Why has not this Bill had precedence on one of the occasions on which Irish measures secured priority on the Order Paper? Hon. Members are admirably organised, and when they are fortunate in the ballot they put down measures which commend themselves to the majority of Members on those benches. I do not say that they do not desire this Bill to pass; but they cannot have a pre-eminent, overmastering wish that it should pass, otherwise they would have taken care on one of the many days on which they have secured precedence to have placed it first on the Order Paper.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I would wish to point out to the right hon. Gentleman that the Irish Members have not been so very fortunate in the ballot. They have only obtained precedence for one Bill up to the present.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I have noticed two or three Wednesdays on which Bills with a most Hibernian flavour in their titles at all events had precedence. I have been in the House five-and-twenty years, and during that period I would be afraid even roughly to estimate the number of Wednesdays in which hon. Members have had precedence. Let us put on one side altogether the merits or demerits of this Bill. So far as I know, I think the Bill is a very good one. I do not know whether it is a practical Bill, but to its principle I think most people will assent. One or two hon. Gentlemen opposite said it would pass without a word of comment, and it was so obvious that no one would desire to debate it. Is that the principle on which hon. Gentlemen manage their debates? Do they not discuss obvious propositions and occupy the time of the House?

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) We have allowed Bills to pass without discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not deny that hon. Members can on occasion show the virtue of silence. I am asking, is that habitual? Are they in that general state of grace in which silence is their obvious and ruling characteristic, and in which every common sense proposition maintained on this side of the House is received with respectful taciturnity on the other side? I think, Sir, that the expectation of silence is very often disappointed on whatever side of the House it is entertained. We may set aside all discussion as to the merits of the Bill, or the characteristics of the Party advocating it, because I can most truly say that neither of these circumstances have had the smallest influence in the decision which I venture to recommend to the House. The question is the management of our Fridays in Supply. I am glad that this Bill is one which, so far as I know, is not of a controversial character. Had it been one which the Government looked upon unfavourably, we might have been accused of partiality. We cannot be accused of partiality on the present occasion, as we have no objection to the Bill. We are acting on a general principle, which I am sure the House ought to accept, and if in a moment of aberration we violated the established practice, I can only say that I should be obliged to see that it did not occur again by putting down on Fridays, not for the purpose of discussion, but for the purpose of preventing motions like the present, other Government business.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN said he could not hope to add weight to the appeal which had been made to the First Lord of the Treasury, but, as the Member who first introduced the Bill, he should like to say a few words on the motion for the adjournment. He introduced the Bill five years ago, and he then endeavoured to make it as unobjectionable as possible. In the course of his investigations he only found two hon. Members who objected to it, and their ground was that they thought it was intended to repeal the Mortmain Acts. There were then some words in the Bill which, in the opinion of lawyers, might be so construed.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot discuss the merits of the Bill.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN said he found hon. Members on the other side favourable to the Bill with the exception of the hon. Member for South Belfast, which he regretted, because everyone would regard the hon. Member as a conscientious and honest opponent, although sometimes fanatical. Whenever he had an opportunity of bringing the Bill forward he always informed the hon. Member of his intention, and he was sure his hon. friend who was now in charge of the Bill would also have informed the hon. Member for South Belfast if he were in the House that the Bill would be brought forward. His hon. friends desired to fight fairly and squarely. The Leader of the House said that he had no objection to the Bill, and that was something to remember, but in the words of a familiar quotation, "Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love, but why did you kick me downstairs?" The House would have adjourned long ago if his hon. friend had been allowed to move the Second Reading of the Bill. The evil which it was meant to remove had been condemned by no less an authority than the Master of the Rolls in Ireland.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to discuss the merits of the Bill.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN said he would ask the House not to be led by the Leader of the House on this occasion. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of Fridays as if they had been created for the Government, but it would be in the recollection of the House that until recently Fridays were the property of private Members, before the Government appropriated them to their own use, as they were inclined to appropriate all the time of the House. He hoped that the Catholics of Ireland, when they were next asked to fight the battles of the Empire, would remember how they had been treated by the Government.

Dr. AMBROSE said that the right hon. Gentleman stated that the Irish Members had been very fortunate in the ballot, but they had only secured one Wednesday up to the present, when they brought forward a Bill for the benefit of over half a million of people. During the discussion of that Bill there were only fourteen Members on the other side.

*Mr. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the question before the House, or with the observations made by the right hon. Gentleman.

Dr. AMBROSE: The right hon. Gentleman said that the Government would themselves put down Bills, if private Members' Bills were to be brought forward on Fridays; but was it because they had neglected their duty that the Irish Members should be deprived of their opportunity? The right hon. Gentleman said that he himself was in favour of the Bill, and that reminded him that when his hon. friend the Member for East Mayo brought forward the Catholic University question last year, the right hon. Gentleman said he was passionately in favour of it, but asked the Irish Members not to go to a division. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman now, if he were passionately in favour of the Bill on the Order Paper, would he make it a Government measure?

Mr. POWER said he desired to support the suggestion of his hon. friend. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that he approved of the principle of the Bill, and saw nothing objectionable in it, but if he approved so much of the Bill, why should he not make it a Government measure? That would be a test of the sincerity of the right hon. Gentleman, and if he did that, there would not be many dissentient voices, even on his own side. They were not responsible for the discussion on the motion for the adjournment. His hon. friend the Member for Waterford proposed an alternative, which would have obviated the discussion, but the Government refused to accept it. The right hon. Gentleman asked why, if the Irish Members were so much interested in the Bill, they did not put it down as first Order on one of the Wednesdays which had fallen to their lot, but he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the Bill had been put down every day during the session, and it was not the fault of the Irish Members that it was not passed. He was sorry that the Catholic Members on the other side did not support the appeal to the Government.

MR. JAMES HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): We cannot ask the Government to violate the rules of the House.

MR. POWER said that if such an appeal were made the right hon. Gentleman would perhaps adopt the suggestion of his hon. friend.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) said that the Leader of the House stated that the precedent quoted by his hon. friend the Member for East Clare did not apply, because of the fact that on that occasion he himself was absent from the House. But the right hon. Gentleman had representatives in the House who acted on his behalf, and therefore he held that the right hon. Gentleman was responsible. The right hon. Gentleman also said that he would in future put down Government Bills which would prevent private Members moving their Bills; but if the right hon. Gentleman neglected to do that, why should the Irish Members suffer for it? They claimed to have a right to discuss the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman used what he would call a very humorous and interesting argument. An hon. Member opposite, animated by a spirit of justice and fair-play, stated that he believed that the demand of the Irish Members was reasonable and just. The right hon. Gentleman immediately jumped up, fearing that the disease would become contagious, and appealed to his party to follow him. The right hon. Gentleman had not treated the Irish Members fairly with regard to the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman asked why this Bill was not put down as the first Order on a Wednesday, but what was the necessity of putting it down on a Wednesday, when, as the right hon. Gentleman himself admitted, there was no opposition to it? The Irish Members were therefore justified in taking an ordinary occasion to bring forward the Bill. An hon. Member opposite appealed to the Leader of the House not to take up the Bill because an hon. friend of his was absent. Was it because one hon. Gentleman was absent on his own business, that the question of removing an insult to Catholics was to be postponed? That would be unworthy of the House of Commons. He observed with some surprise that the hon. Member for the Ilkeston Division of Derby supported the Leader of the House, notwithstanding that on several occasions recently they had heard the right hon. Gentleman, the Leader of his party, protest against being ignored by the Leader of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the adjournment of the House.

MR. CULLINAN said, not being yet well up in the rules of the House, he hoped he would be excused. The arguments and actions of the Leader of the House, and the support which was given him by his party, convinced him that the Government were not disposed to give anything like fair-play or justice to the demands of the Irish Members. The action of the right hon. Gentleman was consistent with that which the Chief Secretary and other Members of the Government assumed, although they had honeyed words in their mouths when they answered the questions of the Irish Members.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.) said that the right hon. Gentleman had been good enough to express himself in favour of the principle of the Bill, and he was therefore appealed to to make it a Government measure. He should be very glad if the right hon. Gentleman would answer that appeal.

*MR. SPEAKER: The question as to whether the Government ought to make a Bill a Government measure or not, is not germane to the question before the House.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR said that the reason why he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to answer was that if he replied favourably the discussion might end.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) said that, as the Member in charge of the Bill, he wished to point out the fallacy of one argument put forward by the First Lord of the Treasury as a reason why hon. Members should vote for the adjournment. The right hon. Gentleman said that if hon. Members broke through the customary rule of procedure on the present occasion, he would in future put down Government Bills after Supply. The right hon. Gentleman must think that the Irish Members were very blind, and that they did not know that there was a dearth of Government legislation. Where were the right hon. Gentleman's Bills? The only business laid before the House was the voting of money for the Army and Navy. In the most gracious Speech from the Throne——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is getting very far away from the subject.

MR. O'DOHERTY said he was surprised that all the protests against th adjournment of the House should have come from the Irish Members. Where was the voice of the hon. Member for Galway, or of the hon. Member for the Brightside Division of Sheffield, in support of the civil and religious liberty of their fellow Catholics? If the right hon. Gentleman wished to remedy the grievance, all he had to do was to tell the Government draftsman to introduce a section into the Statute Law Revision Bill, and the grievance would be wiped out. If the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance to that effect, it would satisfy the Irish Members.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.) said he thought it was the manifest duty of a Protestant like himself, who was returned by a Catholic constituency, to oppose the motion for the adjournment. He did not intend to discuss the merits of the Bill, but he should have thought that the majority of hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House, who were always boasting of their religious toleration, and the Unionist Government, which said it was prepared to do everything for Ireland that an Irish Parliament could do, would have hailed with delight the opportunity which was afforded them of removing a great grievance. The Irish Members had again and again been obliged to point out that the professions of the Unionist party were merely empty wind, and their action on the present occasion would intensify the dissatisfaction of the people of Ireland with English rule, and also the demand that the action of the Irish Members, not only in Ireland, but in the House of Commons should be in the direction of compelling the Government to redress Irish grievances, if they would not redress them through a sense of fair play. As a Protestant he felt grieved that his co-religionists were not broad-minded and liberal enough to rise in their places and urge the Leader of the House to yield to the demand of the Irish Members. The argument and the justice were on the side of the Irish Members, and if their demand was refused they would be taught a lesson which they would take to heart, and they would show that in refusing to grant an opportunity for discussing the Bill the Government would not be advancing the progress of business in the House or bringing about a greater acquiescence on the part of the people of Ireland in English rule.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said that the Government had wasted two hours in endeavouring to prevent the discussion of a Bill which did not meet with the opposition of as many members. The Irish Members knew very well how appeals in the past for facilities to discuss the Bill had been met. The right hon.

Gentleman, although he professed sympathy with the Bill, by his action refused to afford Catholics the religious liberty accorded to other denominations. To be consistent, the right hon. Gentleman should either make Catholics throughout the Empire criminals or make them free.

*MR. SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with the adjournment of the House.

MR. FLAVIN said that if the demand of the Irish Members were refused they would tell their constituents and also the Catholics of Great Britain how they had been treated. The Irish Members did not ask for anything but religious equality.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must endeavour to keep to the question.

MR. FLAVIN said that the Irish Members were only doing their duty in asking that they should be given an opportunity of discussing the Bill.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said that hon. Members opposite had by the rules of the House been able to keep up debates at great length, and it was then the duty of his hon. friends to remain in the House. Now by the rules of the House hon. Members should be allowed to go home after Supply had been finished. He hoped the House would abide by the rules and accept the motion for the adjournment.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said the hon. Member who had just spoken had hardly grasped the meaning of the situation which had arisen. The hon. Member referred to the rules of the House, but was he present when it was pointed out earlier in the debate that on an occasion almost exactly similar the rules of the House were so far waived as to permit a motion for the adjournment on the part of the Government to be withdrawn in order that a private Member's Bill might be discussed? That was an almost exact parallel. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury said it was impossible to depart from precedent, that Friday being a Government day it was essential that nothing but Government business should be taken. But there was no rule so strong that it could not be departed from on occasion, and if ever there was an occasion when a departure should be made it was the present. He would not enter into a discussion of the details of the Bill, but would refer to it merely to the same extent as the right hon. Gentleman referred to it. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Bill was non-controversial. That was perfectly true. It was a Bill which had very few opponents in the House, and which the right hon. Gentleman himself declared he approved of. That being so, was it unreasonable that the Irish Members should oppose the motion for the adjournment, in order that they might deal with a Bill that was practically unopposed? When those who were interested in the Bill read the discussion it would be forced on their minds that although the right hon. Gentleman said he approved of the Bill, there was some hidden objection to it on the part of a section of the Government. The First Lord of the Treasury was generally on such occasions so admirable in his manner, and so bland and suave in his tone, that he succeeded too often in softening down the natural feeling of resentment entertained by the Irish Members; but he took the liberty of telling the right hon. Gentleman, speaking for himself, and he believed also for many other Irish Members, that he was getting heartily sick and tired of his conduct. Hon. Gentlemen opposite boasted sometimes that their party was pre-eminently the party of the aristocracy, and the gentlemen of England. [AN HON. MEMBER: Order, order!] If that was out of order, he would withdraw it. He would repeat that he was getting tired of the conduct of the right hon. Gentleman, who was continually saying to the Irish Members, "I quite agree with your contention, which is most reasonable, I am personally strongly in favour of the measure you desire to pass"; but the end of all the fine and honeyed speeches of the right hon. Gentleman was that his majority of 150 went into the division lobby against the Irish Members. That occurred on the Catholic University question.

*MR. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Gentleman will keep to the question before the House.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he merely alluded to the----

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not in order on a motion for the adjournment in discussing the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman on other questions.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he was referring to the Catholic University question in order to illustrate the attitude——

*MR. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member will endeavour to pay some slight respect to the ruling of the Chair. He is persisting in a line of argument which I have twice told him is not in order.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he would deal with what the right hon. Gentleman himself had said in his speech. He said he had no objection to the principle of the measure, but in the same breath he told the Irish Members that he would give them no help to carry out what he himself said they were justly entitled to. That attitude of continually expressing a desire to meet the wishes of the Irish Members while doing nothing to carry them out was an attitude which he himself was heartily sick of, and it illustrated the emptiness of the professions of the Government to rule Ireland with a fair and equal hand. If the Bill referred to religious orders which were respected by the majority of the Protestant Members of the House, would not the rule have been strained in favour of it? From one point of view, indeed, he was glad the Government had adopted the attitude they had, because it went to prove that while the Irish Members got plenty of sympathy there was still an attempt, though not so open as it used to be, to treat Irish Catholics with contempt, and he sincerely hoped that not only Irish Catholics but their co-religionists throughout the Empire would resent the action of the Government. An hon. Gentleman opposite said that he could not ask the Government to break the rules of the House. It was not a question of asking the Government to break rules; it was asking them to do for this Bill what they did for a Bill last year. As a Catholic himself he was not a bit ashamed to express his determination, in spite of every rule of the House and every action of the Government, to protest as strongly as he could as long as an insult, which no fair minded man approved of, on the Catholics of Ireland and the Empire was retained on the Statute Book.

MR. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe) said that as an Irishman himself he protested against the disrespect shown to the Leader of the House.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: What about the disrespect shown to Catholics?

MR. MACDONA: Of all men in the House his right hon. friend did most to support Roman Catholics in Ireland, and no one could go further than he had.

*MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members on either side of the House are not entitled to discuss the general question.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: On a point of order, might I be allowed to suggest that the hon. Gentleman should be allowed to continue his defence of the Leader of the House?

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 148, Noes, 53. (Division List No. 116.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur

Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross,Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster,Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone,Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Gordon,Hn.JE.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(TrHamlts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E.W.(Bury St.Ed.
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Mid'x
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Levy, Maurice
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H M.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,Rt.HnAGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Charles T.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S.G. Stopford-
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Smith,HC(Northumb.Tynesd.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(Northants
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Tennant, Horold John
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wllliams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wodehouse, Hon. A. (Essex)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Joyce, Michael,
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Morton,Edw.J. C. (Devonport
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
White, Patrick (Meath, North

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes after Twelve of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 1st *April*, 1901.

MR. SPEAKER'S INDISPOSITION.

The House being met, the Clerk Assistant at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, owing to indisposition—

Whereupon the Chairman of Ways and Means came to the Table, and after Prayers, took the Chair as Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order.

TOOK THE OATH.

Two other Members took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

Mr. Deputy Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Bills comprised in the List reported by the Chairman of Ways and Means as intended to originate in the House of Lords, the Standing Orders have been complied with in the following case, viz. :—

Finchley and Hendon Tramways.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Deputy Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Deputy Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND CANNOCK CHASE RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

(By Order.)

Read a second time, and committed.

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Lords Message [26th March], as to the appointment of a Joint Committee on London Underground Railways, considered.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Lords in the said Resolution.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

MORTON CARR DRAINAGE BILL.

Order [27th March] that the Second Reading of the Morton Carr Drainage Bill be deferred till Friday, 19th April, read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

THAMES AND SEVERN PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 1).

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the county and urban district of Carlow, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney General for Ireland and Mr. Wyndham.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 1) BILL.

"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board for Ireland

The Asterisk ( ) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

relating to the county and urban district of Carlow," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 136.]

RAILWAY, ETC., BILLS.

Copy ordered, "of Report by the Board of Trade upon all the Railway, Canal, Tramway, Harbour and Tidal Waters, Electricity, Gas, and Water Bills, and Provisional Orders of Session 1901."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

PETERSFIELD AND SELSEY GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP C).

Mr. Harwood reported from the Committee on Group C of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd April, at Three of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Petition from Runcorn, in favour of re-enactment; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Deptford and Worthing; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Oxenford; Elphingstone; Ormiston; Stanley Main; Bowers (No. 1); Kippax; Wheldale; Lofthouse; Snydale (No. 2); Junction; Silkstone Altofts; Emley; Stourton Grange; Haigh Moor; Gawber; Mitchell's Main; Monckton Main; Houghton Main; Wombwell Main; Manvers (No. 2); Oaklands; Allhallows; Low Stubbin (No. 1); and Tibshelf Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Pembrey, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

INDAPUR TALUKA OF THE POONA DISTRICT—REVISION SURVEY SETTLEMENT.

Petition from inhabitants of Indapur Taluka, for inquiry into their condition, and into the Revision Survey Settlement of their district; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Bangor; Durham; Hampton Wick; and Barton upon Irwell; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Oxenford; Elphingstone; Ormiston; Snydale; Bowers (No. 1); Kippax; Wheldale; Lofthouse; Rothwell; Ardwarke Main; Junction; Snydale (No. 2); Silkstone, Altofts; Emley; Stourton Grange; Haigh Moor; Houghton Main; Wombwell Main; Monckton Main; Mitchell's Main; Low Stubbin (No. 1); Tibshelf; Manners (No. 2); and Oakland's Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Carnoustie; Leicester; Maryport; Wrenthorpe; Islington; Barnes; Selkirk; Appledore; Lancashire and Cheshire; Longsight; and Llanfyllin; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Garvald; Helmsdale; Lethnot; Monifieth (two); Broughty Ferry; Strathmartine; Maxwell; Mearns; Stornoway; Stirling; Edderton; Galashiels (six); Westerkirk; Maybole; Latheron; Meldrum; Fraserburgh; Selkirk; Grahamston; Selkirk (two); and Paisley; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (ENGLAND).

Copy presented, of General Abstract of Marriages, Births, and Deaths registered in England in the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Copy presented, of an Order dated 25th March, 1901, prohibiting the landing of animals from the Republic of Chile [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th March; *Mr. John Morley*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 113.]

SUPERANNUATIONS.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of Junior Inspector, attached to the Elementary Branch of the Board of Education, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the public service are required [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).

Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in England, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 31st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 114.]

SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy presented, of letter from Commandant Louis Botha to Lord Kitchener, dated 13th February, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of further correspondence relating to affairs in South Africa [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND) BILL.

Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the National Gallery (Purchase of Adjacent Land) Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Akers Douglas.*)

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Return ordered, "showing the number of applications for Orders, and the number of Orders which have been passed by the Light Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, in each year since the passing of the Light Railways Act, 1896; and also the number and amount of the loans which the Treasury has agreed to advance in each year under Section 4, and of the special advances under Section 5."—(*Mr. Bill.*)

ELECTRIC SUPPLY UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return ordered, "relating to authorised Electricity Supply Undertakings in the United Kingdom belonging to Local Authorities for the year 1899, in the following form:—

1.	2.	3.	4.			5.	6.		7.	8.		9.		10.		11.		12.		13.		14.	
			Loans				Receipts during year.			Gross profit or loss before providing for interest and sinking fund, &c.		Sinking fund.		Reserve fund.		Net profit or loss after providing for interest, sinking fund, &c.		Percentage of net profit or loss on total capital expenditure.		Price per Board of Trade unit.		Amount of energy generated and sold.	
Name of Local Authority.	Act of Parliament or Provisional Order.	Area of supply.	Amount authorised.	Amount borrowed.	Amount repaid.	Total capital expended at end of year.	Public lighting.	Sale of energy, and other receipts.	Expenditure on maintenane during year.	Profit.	Loss.	Provided during year.	Total at end of year.	Provided during year.	Total at end of year.	Profit.	Loss.	Profit.	Loss.	Authorised.	Charged.	Generated (units).	Sold (units).

—(*Mr. Bartley*).

ELECTRIC SUPPLY UNDERTAKINGS (COMPANIES).

Return ordered, "relating to authorised Electricity Supply Undertakings in the United Kingdom belonging to Companies for the year 1899, in the following form:—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.		10.	11.		12.		13.		14.		15.		16.
								Receipts during year.			Reserve fund.		Depreciation fund.		Net profit or loss for year.		Price per Board of Trade unit.		Amount of energy generated and sold.		
Name of Company.	Act of Parliament or Provisional Order.	Area of Supply.	Total capital authorised at end of year.	Total capital called up at end of year.	Total borrowing powers.	Total loan capital borrowed at end of year.	Total capital expended at end of year.	Public lighting.	Sale of energy, and other receipts.	Expenditure on maintenance during year.	Provided during year, and interest.	Total at end of year.	Provided during year, and interest.	Total at end of year.	Profit.	Loss.	Authorised.	Charged.	U n generated.	Units sold.	Dividend on ordinary shares during year.

—(*Mr. Bartley.*)

NAVY AND MARINES.

Return ordered, "of numbers of Commissioned Officers, Subordinate and Warrant Officers, Petty Officers, Men, and Boys of the Executive Branch, Engineer Branch, and other Branches of the Royal Navy, borne on the first day of April, 1900, excluding Pensioners and Reserves; and a similar Return of the numbers of the Commissioned, Warrant, and Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Marine Forces, in the same form as that of Parliamentary Paper, No. 288, of Session 1898:—

Executive Branch.					Engineer Branch.							Other Branches.						Royal Marines.					Grand Total
									Stokers.														
Commissioned Officers.	Subordinate and Warrant Officers, including Master's Assistants and Cadets.	Petty Officers.	Men.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Subordinate Officers, i.e., Engineer Students.	Warrant Officers.	Chief and other Engine Room artificers.	Petty Officers.	Men.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Subordinate and Warrant Officers, i.e., clerks, assistant clerks, and carpenters.	Petty Officers.	Men.	Kroomen.	Total.	Commissioned Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Men.	Total.	

—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SECURITIES.

Return ordered, "of the amounts of British Government Securities held by the several Government Departments and other Public Offices on the 31st day of March, 1901, specifying whether held in England or Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 189, of Session 1900):—

£2¾ per Cent. Consols.	£2¾ per Cents. (1905).	£2½ per Cents.	Local Loans £3 per Cent. Stock.	Guaranteed Land Stock.	War Stock and Bonds.	Other Securities.		
						Annuities for terms of years.	Local Loans Bonds.	Exchequer Bonds and Treasury Bills.

—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 115.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—JAMESON RAID—CHARTERED COMPANY'S POSITION.

Mr. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen, Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can now inform the House what action he intends taking against the Chartered Company in respect of the claim of the late Transvaal Government for the Jameson Raid.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): His Majesty's Government have taken legal opinion and have been advised that the right to exact reparation for any damage caused to the South African Republic by the raid has not passed to His Majesty's Government as the result of the conquest and annexation of the State; and that there is no legal liability on the part of the Chartered Company to pay to His Majesty's Government, as representing the Government of the late South African Republic, any compensation in respect of the raid. In view of this opinion His Majesty's Government are not aware of any steps that can be taken by them in respect of the claim of the late Transvaal Government.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Is not one leading member of the Chartered Company the son-in-law of His Majesty?

Mr. ALFRED DAVIES: Did not the Chartered Company say that they were prepared to pay for the Jameson Raid?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I should be sorry to answer the question in quite such general terms; but the Chartered Company did undertake that if the claim of the South African Republic were submitted to arbitration they would be content to accept the award, subject, of course, to a fair reference.

Mr. ALFRED DAVIES: Finally, Sir, cannot the right hon. Gentleman give us a little more information to satisfy our minds that there is no claim?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir; I have given the legal opinion which the Government have received, and I cannot go beyond that.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Does the Chartered Company escape all liability in this matter?

[No answer was returned.]

SWAZILAND—MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a Boer commando is now threatening Swaziland, and whether His Majesty's Government will afford military support to the Swazis in resisting invasion.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In answer to the first question I have to say that I am not aware that this is the case, but replying to the second, I may say that the question of any movement of troops must rest with Lord Kitchener.

SWAZILAND — PROPOSED BRITISH PROTECTORATE.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government have decided to accept the petition of the Swazi Queen Regent and Council for the protection of the British Government.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Sir Alfred Milner has been asked to inform the Swazi Queen that the Swazis should keep quiet as long as the war lasts and behave peacefully, and that at the end of the war it will be remembered that they desire to live under British protection.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Is that answer to be taken as a promise to take the Swazis under protection?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The words have been carefully chosen, and I cannot add to them.

NETHERLANDS RAILWAY COMPANY.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can now state to the House the attitude of the British Government towards the Netherlands Railway Company in respect of their railways in the Transvaal Colony.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have nothing at present to add to my reply to the hon. Member of the 25th of February,† and no statement can be made till the Concessions Commission have reported.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY — RECRUITS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTABULARY.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that a number of men belonging to the Imperial Yeomanry were asked in June or beginning of July last, and on many occasions since, to volunteer for service in the South African Constabulary, and that these men were accepted for service, but not allowed to join owing to the exigencies of the war; whether, seeing that the troopers of the South African Constabulary are divided into first, second, and third class troopers, can he say into which class the members of the Imperial Yeomanry will be enrolled when allowed by the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa to join, and whether such members of the Imperial Yeomanry as have been promoted to non-commissioned rank will be allowed to retain their rank on joining the South African Constabulary; and whether the service of these men as Imperial Yeomanry will count from the date of their volunteering for the South African Constabulary towards their pension at the end of their service.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on the subject referred to in the first part of the hon. Member's question, but I will inquire. The classification of men who join the South African Constabulary is a matter for the Inspector General, with whose discretion it is not desirable to interfere. As the Constabulary is enlisted for short periods only, it is not proposed to grant superannuation allowances to men who have served in the force.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the text of the letter from Commandant Botha to Lord Kitchener, which has been telegraphed for, has now reached this country, and if it can be laid upon the Table of the House; and whether Lord Kitchener has been asked if he can give fuller information than is at present in the possession of this House of the reasons to which General

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† See *Debates*, Vol. lxxxix., page 1018.

Botha alluded as not surprising to Lord Kitchener of the Boer non-acceptance of terms; and, if so, what is the information received, or, if this request has not been made to Lord Kitchener, if His Majesty's Government will make it.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I can lay the original letter, which has now been received. I am awaiting a despatch from Lord Kitchener as to the second part of the question. He will no doubt give us what information is in his power.

MR. PIRIE: Were any instructions sent by the Government to Lord Kitchener as guidance on the salient points of the negotiations before the interview between Lord Kitchener and General Botha took place?

MR. BRODRICK: No definite instructions were sent before the original interview.

LORD KITCHENER'S APPEAL FOR COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS.

MR. CHAPLIN, (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War a question of which I have given him private notice, in reference to Lord Kitchener's appeal for comforts for the troops in South Africa, and I am sorry that I omitted by mishap to put it on the Paper. It is whether the Government cannot make distinction between articles of clothing which are needed for the health and comfort of the troops and the other articles designated in Lord Kitchener's appeal, and which are more in the nature of luxuries, and whether the Government can undertake to provide the required articles of clothing themselves as early as possible.

MR. BRODRICK: I am obliged to my hon. friend for giving me the opportunity of clearing up some misconceptions which have arisen as to the recent demand for comforts and other articles for the troops in South Africa. On 3rd March, in consequence of many inquiries from friends and relatives of soldiers, I telegraphed to Lord Kitchener asking whether winter comforts would be acceptable, and he replied on the 17th that they would now be gladly received. It seems to have been inferred from the public notice that His Majesty's Government did not recognise the duty of providing the troops with warm clothing. This is an entire error. The Government undertake to provide and to maintain for the troops the following articles of warm clothing without expense to the man when they need replacement:—Two serge suits, two flannel shirts, two pairs woollen drawers, two flannel body belts, one woollen cardigan or jersey, one greatcoat or cloak, two pairs socks, one knitted woollen cap, two pairs of puttees; also, at discretion of the General Officer Commanding, one coat termed "warm British." The following articles were in store in South Africa or on the sea (apart from supplies to troops going out) on February 10th:—Greatcoats, 35,500; serge trousers, 111,000; jerseys and cardigans, 243,000; flannel shirts, 86,000; woollen and cotton drawers, 111,000; flannel belts, 191,000; woollen caps, 121,000; pairs of socks, 591,000; puttees, pairs, 378,000. Shipped since:—30,000 greatcoats; 30,000 jerseys and cardigans; 80,000 flannel shirts; 64,000 woollen and cotton drawers; 65,000 pairs of socks. The House will, I think, agree that, while the Government are fully prepared to maintain their own issues of warm clothing, there can be no objection to private individuals who desire to put extras or luxuries at the disposal of different regiments being encouraged to do so. Whatever may be the regulations, such generous gifts are always appreciated. I have no doubt, owing to the vast field of the operations, cases of hardship occur owing to the difficulty of transit, but we will do all we can to avoid it.

FIELD ALLOWANCES.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the amount of the field allowance granted to British troops serving in South Africa was doubled when they passed from British territory into the enemy's country; and whether, having regard to the arduous services rendered by them and the hardships they endured, the troops besieged in Ladysmith and Mafeking will be granted field allowance at the higher rate for the period of the siege.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I think the hon. Member's question is intended to refer, not to the field allowance, which is not affected by place, but to the allowance granted in view of the high price of provisions in South Africa. This was given at the rate of 1s. 6d. a day up to the 31st March, 1900—except in Zululand, where the rate was 3s. From the 1st April, 1900, the 3s. rate was made universal throughout South Africa. I do not think that it would be possible to concede the higher rate at an earlier date to the troops serving in particular places.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY OFFICERS—HONORARY RANK.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the officers of the City Imperial Volunteers have been permitted to retain their Army rank, the same privilege will be allowed to Imperial Yeomanry Officers.

LORD STANLEY: Yes, Sir; they will have the same honorary rank.

ARMY REORGANISATION.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now redeem his promise with reference to placing us in possession of the Resolution on Army Reorganisation before Easter?

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I hope to lay it on the Table before the night is out.

OFFICERS' PENSIONS.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether officers who have retired from the Army with a gratuity before having completed fifteen years of service, and have since, in accordance with the Army Regulations, been on active service with Militia Regiments in South Africa, will be allowed to count such service towards the completion of their fifteen years service; if so, whether, in the event of their repaying the gratuity received, they will be entitled to receive a pension at the usual rates in lieu of such gratuity, and whether interest upon the gratuity repaid will be payable.

LORD STANLEY: The reply to the question is in the affirmative, but each case must be considered on its merits as to the exact amount to which an officer will be entitled.

PENSIONS—CASE OF PRIVATE WOOLLEY.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, having regard to the fact that the Paymaster General has stated that since the commencement of the South African Campaign the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital have in nearly every case granted the maximum pension of half a crown per day to soldiers wounded or broken by disease, whether he will recommend further consideration of the case of Private Woolley, of Leicester, who has been certified by the Army medical authorities to be quite helpless, and hopelessly broken, but is allowed one shilling per day on which to maintain a wife and family.

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir. This is not a case which deserves reconsideration. As I previously informed the hon. Member, this man's breakdown of health has been influenced by his own misconduct. He was addicted to drink and reported for other offences with the Colours, and while in the Reserve was three times convicted by the Civil power for drunkenness and assault.

THIRD BATTALION GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, in view of the fact that the 3rd battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, which has been embodied since 6th December, 1899, signified in August, through the General Officer Commanding, its wish to be disembodied, whether he will reconsider his decision to retain the services of this battalion for the present.

LORD STANLEY: This battalion stated that they wished to be disembodied, but that if they were put into barracks they would prefer to remain embodied They were accordingly put into barracks and there is no present intention of disembodying them.

RETURN OF TROOPS FROM THE FRONT—SCOTTISH YEOMANRY.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state whether arrangements have yet been made for the return of the Scottish Yeomanry to this country; and if not, can he say when they are likely to be relieved.

LORD STANLEY: I am not yet in a position to say when these men will be relieved.

MR. WEIR: The same answer has been given several times.

FOURTH LEINSTER REGIMENT.

*MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can inform the House when the 4th Leinster Regiment, stationed at Dover, will be disembodied.

LORD STANLEY: I am afraid I am not in a position at present to say when this battalion will be disembodied.

PERIOD OF TRAINING IN THE RANKS.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what is the official estimate of time necessary, reckoning from date of enlistment, to fully train a field artillery gunner and driver, a cavalry trooper, and an infantry private respectively.

MR. BRODRICK: All estimates as to the period of training depend upon the conditions and the station. I do not think any advantage would be gained by laying down hard-and-fast rules.

SIR JOHN COLOMB asked if there were no means of estimating the length of time required to train soldiers.

MR. BRODRICK: We have estimates, but they vary with circumstances.

AGES OF RECRUITS.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, with reference to ascertaining the correct ages of recruits and the evils of the existing system, if he will state in what respect the oath of allegiance taken by the recruit on attestation is an oath as to correctness of his age, and if he will consider the abvisability of altering the oath so as to make it refer more directly to this point, and at the same time include among punishable offences any false statements of age on his part; can he state why more care is not exercised by the Army medical officers in their duty in this respect, and whether in future neglect as to this on their part will be dealt with more severely; and who was the medical officer responsible for the enlisting as a full-grown private soldier of George H. Over, who was only fourteen years old; and whether the officer has been reprimanded.

LORD STANLEY: The oath of allegiance has nothing whatever to do with the matter. On attestation the soldier signs his name to a declaration that his answers to various questions are true, amongst which is a question as to age. I am advised that a conviction for making a false statement as to age cannot be obtained. There is no reason to suppose that medical officers are careless on the point of age, and in this particular case the officer does not appear to have been to blame, as the recruit was well grown.

MR. PIRIE: Can the noble Lord explain his statement in answer to another question that the age given by a recruit on oath was held to be true age for reckoning army service? The noble lord distinctly said that, and——

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to argue the answer.

MR. PIRIE: I will put a question down for to-morrow.

NAVAL MOBILISATION.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Board of Admiralty have considered the expediency of ordering at some future time an unexpected mobilisation of certain portions of the fleet.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The question of mobilising a portion of the Fleet has been considered, but it has hitherto been the opinion of the Admiralty that to mobilise a portion of the Fleet only would be undesirable, and that, if it were accomplished, the results would be misleading.

SECOND CLASS NAVAL RESERVE—PENSION CLAIMS.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the Government will take into favourable consideration the claims of 2nd Class Naval Reserve men who have served for long periods to a certain amount of pension.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There is no intention of putting the 2nd Class Reserve men of the old system on an equality with the first-class men as regards pension; but under the rules established in 1897 any men in the former class who are under thirty-two years of age and will qualify for promotion to the higher class by volunteering for naval training may earn a pension at the age of sixty.

CANTON OPERATIONS OF 1857–8—DISTRIBUTION OF BOOTY.

MR. MAJENDIE (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the nature and description of the various properties called the Canton Booty, captured at Canton by the officers, crews, and Marines of Her late Majesty's vessels during the China War of 1857 and 1858; how much of the proceeds or value of the same, amounting to £28,848 2s. 7d., has been paid to such officers, crews, and Marines; what part of the sum of £28,848 2s. 7d. represents the value of treasure captured in Commander Yeh's palace on the 28th–29th December, 1857; the total number of persons entitled to share in the above sum; what was the share of the same receivable by the officer then in command of Her late Majesty's Fleet, and by an able-bodied seaman, and by a private of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, respectively, under the rules then in force; and will he give the numbers and dates of the official correspondence on the subject from December, 1857, to 1863, and state whether there is any reference therein to a fund called the Seymour Fund.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The booty was seized in the Imperial Treasury, in the Yamen where Yeh was taken, and in the Government magazines. It consisted of Sycee silver and gold, lead and brass guns, and sulphur and saltpetre. Of the net proceeds of the sale of the above the amount awarded to the Navy was £28,848 2s. 7d.; the amount paid, £27,707 9s. 4d.; balance remaining, £1,140 13s. 3d. There is nothing in the report of sale to show how much of the above sum represents the value of the booty captured in the Yamen. The total number of persons entitled to share in the award was 5,139; the shares of the ranks specified in the question being: Naval commander-in-chief, £1,142 8s.; able seaman, £2 14s. 1d.; private Royal Marines, £2 14s. 1d. With regard to the question in the last paragraph, there is no reference in the correspondence to any "Seymour Fund"; the Papers on the subject of the booty can be inspected at the Admiralty if desired.

INDIAN STAFF CORPS—PROMOTION

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the number of petitions from officers of the Indian Staff Corps which have been presented to this House, referring to the disadvantage to which such officers are subjected by being constantly superseded by their juniors in the British Army, and praying for an acceleration of promotion which may tend to reduce the grievance; and seeing that Lord Roberts, when Commander-in-Chief in India, recognised that there was a grievance and suggested a remedy, whether an effort will be now made to readjust the rules for staff corps promotion.

*COLONEL MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the 600 petitions presented to the House of Commons from officers of the Indian Staff Corps praying for an accelerated promotion; and whether, considering that the present conditions were fixed thirty or forty years ago, that promotion is now slower in the Indian Staff Corps than in the British Army, and that officers in the Staff Corps are in consequence superseded upon active service upon the frontier by their juniors in the British Army, he will accede to the prayer of the petitioners.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I stated last December in this House that the matter to which this question refers was under consideration in India, and that some months must elapse before any decision could be arrived at. To this I am afraid I can add nothing at present.

INDIAN CENSUS.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Census Returns relating to the famine districts in India have yet been completed; and, if so, whether they show a decrease as compared with the Returns for the same districts in the census of ten years ago; and if he can inform the House of the amount of the decrease in British territory and the Native States respectively, and how far that decrease is to be attributed to the prevalence of plague and famine.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The preliminary information about the census which I have received by telegraph from India is not sufficient to enable me to give any answer as to the effects of plague and famine. In the British Provinces, taken as a whole, there is an increase of nearly ten millions; in the Native States there is a decrease of about three millions since 1891.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—CIVIL ENGINEERS' MEMORIALS.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will now lay upon the Table the Government of India's Despatch No. 10, P.W., dated 30th March, 1899, covering memorials from Mr. A. S. Russell and others.

LORD G. HAMILTON: My hon. friend put a similar question to me with regard to this letter from India on the 8th May of last year.* I then stated that a correspondence on the subject to which it referred was proceeding, and that I was unable to fix any date for the publication of Papers. I am afraid I can as yet add nothing to my former reply.

INDIAN COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON IMPORTED BOUNTY-FED SUGAR.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has any further information to give the House as to the results which have accrued from the operation of the countervailing duties imposed in India in March, 1899, on imports on bounty-fed sugar; and whether he has any statistics showing increase in cultivation or refining of sugar.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The countervailing duties have been so lately introduced, and recent seasons have been so abnormal, that it is impossible to give any trustworthy account of the effect of this measure upon sugar production in India. So far there has been no increase in cultivation or in the refining of sugar in India.

ASHANTI—DESERTIONS FROM THE WEST AFRICAN REGIMENT AT COOMASSIE.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to give the House with respect to the desertion of men of the West African Regiment from Coomassie; how many soldiers remain there, and whether he anticipates any disturbance.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Between 400 and 500 men of the West African Regiment, which is a regiment raised in Sierra Leone and employed temporarily during the disturbance in Ashanti, deserted from Coomassie and proceeded to Cape Coast. The Governor reports that they have done no damage, and that he is sending them to Sierra Leone. They were to have been sent back in January to Sierra Leone, but the half battalion of the Central African Regiment by which they were to have been relieved was detained at the Gambia. The operations on the Gambia have now been finished, and the Central African Regiment is proceeding to the Gold Coast. Coomassie is garrisoned by the Gold Coast Constabulary, but the exact strength of the garrison is not known. I have not heard of any disturbance among the tribes round Coomassie.

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* See *Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxii., page 1093.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Is there any allegation of a grievance on the part of the men who mutinied?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Certainly. The grievance of the men of the West African Regiment is that they were not sent home to Sierra Leone at the time at which it was understood they were to be released, and the reason they were not released is that the outbreak of disturbances on the Gambia, in which the French and ourselves were concerned, kept back a regiment there.

SUGAR BOUNTIES—BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state how soon the Conference of Brussels regarding the Sugar Bounties is likely to reassemble, and what is the present condition of the negotiations on the matter.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): As the House was informed on the 21st of February last, in reply to a question by the hon. Member for the Stratford upon Avon Division of Warwickshire, suggestions have been received from the Belgian Government for the reassembling of the Brussels Conference. His Majesty's Government have informed the Belgian Government that they are prepared discuss the question again, and have asked for certain preliminary explanations. We are not in a position to make any further statement upon the subject at present.

FOREIGN SHIPPING BOUNTIES.

MR. LAWRENCE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his Department have any detailed information as to the bounties or subsidies paid by the German and French Governments to the chief shipping lines; and, if not, whether he will obtain the same and permit a Return to be printed.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Yes; information is being collected as regards France, Germany, and other countries. As soon as it is complete, Papers will be presented to Parliament.

CUSTOMS TARIFFS—PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF EMPIRE PRODUCTS.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that, of the oversea goods brought into the markets of the United Kingdom, only six per cent. are charged a toll or duty on behalf of the public revenue, and that these latter, amounting to £32,000,000 in 1890, paid a duty of 80 per cent., one-half being raised on articles of food not producible in Great Britain and Ireland, and paying 47½ per cent. *ad valorem* duty, and the remainder on tobacco, paying 253 per cent. *ad valorem*; and whether in the coming Budget he will endeavour to readjust this inequality, and to enlarge the area of indirect taxation, giving a preference to Empire products, and admitting breadstuffs and raw materials free.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I cannot go into the details stated in the first paragraph of the question, though I do not think the figures are calculated on an accurate basis. But there is no doubt that the principle of our Customs tariff is to levy considerable duties on a few articles of large consumption. As to the second paragraph, I can only ask my hon. friend to wait for the Budget. But he knows that on some essential points I am unable to agree with him.

TREASURY BILLS.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state what proportions of the sum of £21,330,000 raised upon Treasury Bills at six, nine, and twelve months respectively have been borrowed at and above four per cent. interest.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The amounts borrowed at an average rate of 4 per cent. or upwards were £1,000,000 in six months bills, £2,000,000 in nine months bills, and £2,000,000 in twelve months bills.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman allow country banks to tender in the future?

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: They are quite capable of tendering now, Sir.

REVENUE RECEIPTS—ERRONEOUS ESTIMATE IN *THE TIMES*.

Mr. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): May I ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been directed to a statement in *The Times* of to-day as to the very excessive amount of the receipts this year as compared with his Estimates, and whether the statement is correct.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: My attention has been drawn to the statement, but I am sorry to say I must dissipate an agreeable illusion. The fact is, the author of it has included the sum of more than £9,600,000 paid to the Local Taxation Account in the receipts paid to the Exchequer. So far from the receipts paid to the Exchequer showing a surplus of twelve and a half millions, they show a surplus of about £2,800,000 above my Budget Estimate. I am afraid a good deal of it is due to anticipatory payments to Excise and Customs duties.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY—MIXED TRAINS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will request the Highland Railway Company to assure him that all cattle wagons attached to passenger trains running between Muir of Ord and Avoch during the month of October last were fitted with a continuous vacuum brake pipe in conformity with the requirements of the Board of Trade; and having regard to the fact that passenger trains were run on the mornings of Monday the 15th October and Tuesday the 16th October between Muir of Ord and Avoch to which a cattle wagon not fitted with a continuous brake was attached during part of the journey, will inquiry be made with a view to ascertain whether the Highland Railway Company now take steps to ensure that no cattle wagon unprovided with a continuous brake shall be attached to passenger trains.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): No, Sir, I do not propose to ask the Highland Railway Company for a general assurance to the effect referred to in the first paragraph of the question. With regard to the second paragraph, I venture to think that the hon. Member has not appreciated the effect of the Board of Trade regulations on the subject. They do not go so far as to absolutely prohibit the company from attaching such a cattle wagon to a passenger train.

Mr. WEIR: But I saw these wagons myself. Will not the right hon. Gentleman make further inquiry?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have inquired. The Board of Trade regulations do not require that vehicles in mixed trains should be provided with a continuous brake.

MISSING BRITISH SAILING VESSELS

Mr. ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state how many British sailing vessels left foreign ports in ballast during 1900 which have not since been heard of; what was their aggregate tonnage; and what was the aggregate number of officers and men carried by them.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Seven British sailing vessels which left foreign ports in ballast during 1900 have not since been heard of. Their aggregate net tonnage was 12,434 tons, and the aggregate number of officers and men carried by them was approximately 188.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Mr. THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can give the number of aliens entered at the port of London from the 1st January to the 28th February, 1901; how many of these aliens are now settled in the East Endof London; and how the figures for the period stated compare with the figures for the same period in the years 1900 and 1899.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: This question should have been addressed to me. The answer to the first paragraph is 3,410. The second can be answered approximately only by deducting the numbers of alien seamen—namely, 429—and the number of aliens reported to be on their way to places outside the United Kingdom—namely, 800, leaving 2,181. But it is impossible to say how many of these settled in the East of London or whether a considerable number of those who were reported to be on the move did not eventually remain here. The corresponding figures for 1900 are 3,140 and 2,362; and for 1899, 2,596 and 1,780.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman when he proposes to fulfil the promise of his predecessor to introduce legislation on the subject?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have already told my hon. friend that I do not propose to introduce legislation this year.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Then I shall continue to call attention to this matter.

ALIEN OVERCROWDING IN EAST LONDON.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to an inquiry recently undertaken on behalf of the Toynbee trustees into the effect of alien immigration in the East End of London, and to the report made by their Commissioners to the effect that considerable areas in St. George's-in-the-East and other adjacent districts are being denuded of Gentile population, the properties sold, and the old tenants replaced by immigrants paying abnormally high rents, and defraying the expense by taking in an improper number of lodgers; and, in such case, what steps His Majesty's Government propose to take in the matter, bearing in mind their announced desire to deal with the better housing of the working classes.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I have no wish to minimise the nature of the serious problem indicated in the question; but if by an improper number of lodgers my hon. and gallant friend means such a number as creates overcrowding, the local authority has full power to deal with the question under the existing law.

PRISON CHAPLAINS' SALARIES.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he explain on what grounds a salary of £450 per annum is paid to a Church of England prison chaplain, whilst the highest a Roman Catholic priest engaged in the same service can receive is £300, although in some of the largest prisons in England the Roman Catholic Chaplains have most work to do, having in some cases to take sole charge of the education of prisoners; and, whether, in view of these facts, he will undertake to have Roman Catholic chaplains' salaries adjusted on the same basis as the salaries of the Church of England chaplains.

*MR. RITCHIE: The maximum salary of a Roman Catholic priest is £300 a year, while that of a Church of England chaplain is £450 a year. This was settled many years ago on the report of the Commission of 1881, on the ground that the prison chaplain's duties are prescribed by rule and include responsibility for secular instruction in the prison. I am not aware that there has been any dissatisfaction felt or expressed at the arrangement, which has worked apparently without friction for many years, and I am not prepared to take any steps to alter it.

INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in the appointment of an inspector of nuisances for a rural district, it is within the power of the Local Government Board to refuse to sanction an appointment which in itself complies with all statutory requirements and the published regulations of the Local Government Board because the individual appointed belongs to a certain trade or profession, such as that of licensed victualler, house agent, or rent collector; and, whether, if the Board has this power, and have in force a rule or practice to reject members of the trades or professions above-named, steps will be taken to notify local authorities thereof, in order that they may avoid making an appointment which they may find it necessary to withdraw.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): As regards cases where a portion of the salary of the inspector of nuisances is to be repaid by the county council, the answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The number of instances in which it has been proposed to make appointments of inspectors of nuisances from the classes referred to is very small, and I do not think it necessary to take the steps suggested by the hon, Member.

DOG MUZZLING ORDER IN CARMARTHENSHIRE.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will state the number of times the muzzling order has been in force in the county of Carmarthen during the last six years; and whether he will give the dates when the respective orders were made and withdrawn, and the reason why the order on each occasion was made.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The answer to the first paragraph is three, but in no case did the order extend to the whole county. The first order lasted from 26th July, 1897, to 10th May, 1898. It was made owing to two outbreaks of rabies near Pontardulais on the borders of Carmarthenshire. The second from 29th August, 1899, to 10th May, 1900. It was imposed on account of four cases of rabies on the borders of Carmarthen and Glamorganshire. The third dates from 5th October, 1900, and is still in force. Twelve cases of rabies have occurred in the scheduled district, nine of them being in Carmarthenshire. Within the last few days another suspected case has been reported.

LONDON TELEGRAPHISTS—PROMOTION.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state the number of telegraphists in London now in receipt of £160 per annum, also the number promoted from the £160 scale to the £190 scale during last year; and whether he will consider the advisability of completing the abolition of classification in the London telegraph service by allowing all telegraphists of good conduct and efficiency to proceed to the maximum of £190 per annum.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The number of telegraphists at the Central Telegraph Office in London now in receipt of £160 per annum is 353. The number promoted during last year was thirteen. The abolition of classification in the London telegraph service was completed by the amalgamation of the first and second classes of telegraphists, under the recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee, and the Postmaster General does not propose to disturb the arrangement. It was the opinion of the Committee that the class of overseers and senior telegraphists which has a maximum of £190 a year should be maintained as a separate class.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, seeing that from 1882 to 1892 the Civil Service Commissioners issued notices to intending candidates for the position of telegraphists in London to the effect that they would have a prospect of rising to £190 per annum, the maximum salary of a London telegraphist having now been fixed at £160 per annum, it taking twenty years before this sum is received, the Postmaster General will consider the desirability of taking steps to enable all those men who entered under the terms offered by the Civil Service Commissioners, namely, £190 per annum, an opportunity of receiving that salary.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The prospect of telegraphists at the Central Telegraph Office in London of rising to £190 has been in no way altered or diminished. Promotion to the class of overseers and senior telegraphists—formerly styled "senior telegraphists"—which has the scale of £160 by £8 to £190 a year—has always been subject to the occurrence of vacancies on that class, and the Postmaster General does not propose to alter the rule in this respect.

BONDED WAREHOUSES.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether there is an intention to extend the hours during which bonded warehouses may be kept open free of charge; how long the present hours have been in force; and what reason there is for extension, and whether complaints have been received by the Board of Customs from warehouse keepers; and whether when the officers of Customs were informed, as candidates, of their hours on warehousing duty, that those hours were subject to such alteration as the Board and Treasury may from time to time direct; and, if not, whether adequate compensation will be given for any detriment that the officers may suffer under any such new arrangements.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No change has been sanctioned, but the matter is under consideration.

MR. FLAVIN: Can the hon. Gentleman say when the information will be forthcoming?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I hope soon after Easter.

BOARD SCHOOL SITES IN EAST LONDON—REHOUSING.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, having regard to the fact that Mr. Wylie, who attended at the Limehouse Town Hall on Friday, 15th March, on behalf of the Board of Education, as to the eligibility of Blakesley Street site for the erection thereon of a Board School in the Tower Hamlets School Board Division, Block H, was offered an alternative vacant site in the same Block, and was assured on behalf of the Stepney Borough Council that, if the London School Board would exercise its responsibilities for rehousing by taking a larger number than twenty houses in any slum property, the Borough Council would willingly co-operate with the School Board in any rehousing scheme, whether the Council will recommend the Education Department to vote the Blakesley Street scheme, which proposes to dishouse 120 people in the most congested and populous district of East London, and to accept either of the alternative suggestions offered.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education do not consider either of the alternative sites suggested suitable for a school, and they see no reason for striking the Blakesley Street site out of the Bill to be submitted to Parliament.

GLASGOW SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC—POORHOUSE REMOVALS.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, seeing that poor persons entering Glasgow poorhouses, and not having acquired a settlement in the city, continued to be removed to poorhouses in their parish or settlement, and that such a course may be calculated to spread the outbreak of small pox, whether all such removals will be forbidden by the Local Government Board until the disease has been stamped out in Glasgow.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The Local Government Board have no power to forbid such removals, but they are aware that the Parish Councils of Glasgow and Govan adopt every necessary precaution in the interests of public health before any removal takes place. There are fortunately now no cases of smallpox in the three poorhouses in Glasgow.

EXPENDITURE ON VACCINATION IN GLASGOW.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will furnish a Return showing the amount of money spent by the Corporation of Glasgow in vaccination and re-vaccination from the 1st of January, 1892, to the present time.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The question of furnishing the Return desired by the hon. Member is being considered by the Local Government Board for Scotland, and if the hon. Member will renew his question after the Easter recess I shall be in a position to give him a definite reply.

AVOCH HARBOUR.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state with whom the Fishery Board have been in negotiation in regard to Avoch Harbour, and when; will he explain the nature of the negotiations and say at what stage they had arrived when they were arrested; and will he explain the nature of the technical legal questions which are alleged to have been raised in regard to ownership of the harbour, and how any such questions warranted the Board in discontinuing negotiations; and is he now in a position to state the name of the owner of the harbour.

***Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: I am informed by the Fishery Board that they were in negotiation with the Reverend Alfred Philip, when the hon. Member, on the 15th December last, raised the question as to whether the Board could take any action, the Provisional Order of 1894 having lapsed. It also appears that in subsequent letters to the Board the hon. Member questioned the action of Mr. Philip in the matter and the responsibility of Mr. Fletcher as to the upkeep of the harbour. It is the opinion of the Fishery Board that, if the question as to ownership had not been so persistently raised by the hon. Member, their negotiations would probably have been completed by this date. I could not properly give any determination of the question of ownership which might rest on legal considerations, and therefore I am not able to answer the last paragraph.

Mr. WEIR: Is it not the duty of the Scotch Office to discover who is the owner of this harbour?

***Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY**: No, Sir, neither is it my duty to give opinions on legal questions of this nature.

KING'S BENCH DIVISIONAL COURT ARREARS.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Divisional Court of King's Bench has not sat for two terms, and what steps will be taken in the interests of suitors to prevent the continuance of this delay.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs): The question of my hon. and gallant friend must have been put under some misapprehension. The Divisional Court of the King's Bench has sat during both these sittings, but it is the fact that owing to the illness of judges, and the hearing of election petitions, the sittings have not been quite as frequent as usual, and it has not been possible to make the ordinary progress with certain parts of the business which come before that Court. The matter is receiving the careful attention of the Lord Chief Justice and the judges.

Major RASCH: Is the hon. and gallant Gentleman aware that no Committee sat for the hearing of cases in the Special Paper in either the Michaelmas or Hilary terms?

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: It may be so. I believe that that is the part of the business which has been delayed.

SNEEM PIER, KERRY.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what arrangements have been come to with reference to the erection of a goods store on Sneem Pier, county Kerry, and whether the Congested Districts Board and other parties interested have succeeded in obtaining the withdrawal of the opposition on the part of the landlord.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): The owners, in September last, stated it was their intention to build a store on land adjoining the quay. They have not offered any opposition in the matter to the Congested Districts Board.

CARLOW—LABOURERS' COTTAGES SCHEME INQUIRY.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Carlow, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that public notice was given of the intention to hold a Local Government-Board inquiry, under the Labourers' Cottages (Ireland) Act, in Carlow workhouse on 25th March instant; and that the persons interested attended at the hour notified, but that it was not till

4.10 p.m. that they were informed by telegraph that the inspector appointed by the Local Government Board to hold the inquiry was unable to attend; can he explain why prior notice was not given of the inspector's inability to attend, which would have saved public inconvenience; and can he say on what day the proposed inquiry will be now held.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The inspector's inability to attend was due to his sudden illness, and the notice given was the earliest that could be given under the circumstances. The inquiry will be held on or about the 17th April; due notice will be given when the date has been fixed.

BUNDORRAGHA (MAYO) FISHERIES.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the fishermen of the village of Bundorragha, situate on the county Mayo side of Killery Bay, are hampered in their endeavours to earn a livelihood owing to the want of a proper landing pier on which to land their fish; and would he use his influence with the Congested Districts Board with a view to inducing that body to build a pier suitable to the requirements of the case.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The district referred to is not within the area scheduled as congested, and the Congested Districts Board is precluded, therefore, from entertaining the proposal in question.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is permissible, according to instructions issued by the Local Government Board, that medical officers and relieving officers should act as personating agents for candidates at Parliamentary elections.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Board has not issued any instructions on the subject. But it has been stated, when its advice has been sought, that a paid officer should not, in its opinion, interfere in elections beyond exercising his right to vote.

SLIGO LAND COMMISSION.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the proceedings at the sitting of the Land Commission in Sligo on 27th instant, when the list contained over 160 cases of appeal from the sub-commissioners and the county court judges; is he aware that Mr. Commissioner O'Brien commented adversely on the court valuers' practice of varying the acreable value by paltry sums as one which encouraged appeals from the sub-commissioners' decisions; and, seeing that over 18,000 appeals, mostly by the landlords on the question of acreable value, are now awaiting the decision of the chief Land Commission, whether the Government intend by legislation or otherwise to deal with the increasing number of appeals in the Irish Land Courts.

Mr. WYNDHAM: There were 65 cases heard by the Commissioners at their recent sitting in Sligo; the remaining cases were either settled or withdrawn. I have no information as to the second paragraph. The number of appeals outstanding is 12,500, not 18,000. In reply to the last query, I cannot add anything to the statements which have already been made by Government in regard to land legislation.

Mr. FLYNN: Has not the right hon. Gentleman's attention been called to the very remarkable declaration of Commissioner O'Brien as to the frequency of these appeals?

Mr. WYNDHAM: It would not be proper on my part to comment on decisions given in the Court of Appeal.

INSTRUCTOR'S HOUSE AT CARRICK, CO. DONEGAL.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland under what heading does the expenditure for the building of the instructor's house at Carrick, county Donegal, come, and why does this item not appear amongst the expenditure, as given in their published reports, of the Congested Districts Board in the years the work was carried out; what was the initial cost of this house, and what has it cost since its erection for repairs; will he cause inquiry to be made as to local feeling on the subject; will he state if he has received any report from the Board's engineers as to whether the building can with the present expenditure be made habitable; and what is the term of the lease obtained by the lessees for the ground upon which it is built, and what is the annual rent payable therefor.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The expenditure has been included, with various other items, under the heading "Agricultural Grants." The initial cost of the building was £600; a further sum of £150 is being expended on additions and alterations. I shall be happy to receive any representations from the locality on the subject. The answer to the third paragraph is in the affirmative. The term of the lease is 99 years, and the annual rent of the site £3 2s. 6d.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: When was the house built; was it recently?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have not that information.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—INSTRUCTION IN IRISH HISTORY.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Irish history is allowed to be taught in Irish National schools, and whether, if so, the managers and teachers will be allowed to select the class books on the subject which they consider most suitable.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Irish history, in conjunction with English history, may be taught in Irish National schools. Managers and teachers are allowed to select the class books on the subject from the list of books sanctioned by the Commissioners of National Education for use in Irish National schools.

MAINTENANCE OF CRIMINAL LUNATICS IN IRELAND.

Mr. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether effect is given in Ireland to the provisions of 47 and 48 Vic., c. 64, s. 10, that all expenses of criminal lunatics (including housing) in the United Kingdom ought to be paid by the Imperial Treasury.

Mr. WYNDHAM: If the hon. Member will refer to Section 18 of the Act he will see that Section 10 does not apply to Ireland.

GRANT IN AID OF IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the amount certified by the auditor as being due to the Cork District Lunatic Asylum for the quarter ended 31st March, 1899, will be paid.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

Mr. GILHOOLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any moneys have been paid out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account for the maintenance of lunatic asylums for the year 1898; and whether, seeing that the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account did not come into force until the 1st of April, 1899, moneys which became due in 1898 were properly paid; and if not, will the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account be recouped from the Imperial Treasury.

Mr. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the capitation grant paid to the lunatic asylums in Ireland in the year 1899 was on account of maintenance for the year 1898, and that the grants were paid out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account established by the Local Government Act, 1898, commencing on the 1st of April, 1899; whether any payments could have been made out of this fund for any service prior to the latter date; and if these grants were so irregularly paid, what steps were taken to recoup the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I will reply at the same time to the three questions on this subject. Government contributions to lunatic asylums in Ireland are, and have been, paid in or about the month of June in each year. This arrangement was not altered by the Local Government Act of 1898, and every asylum has since that Act, as before it, received in June a contribution calculated upon twelve months expenditure. The Act provided that the twelve months upon which the contribution was calculated should be the preceding financial year, instead of the preceding calendar year. The effect of this change was slightly to increase the amount of the first Government contribution. The Local Taxation Account, however, as stated by my right hon. friend the late Secretary to the Treasury on 30th April, 1900, became liable for payments calculated from 1st January, 1898, whereas its income was calculated only from 1st April, 1898. It was, therefore, repaid the difference by the Supplementary Estimate of July last.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD —MEDICAL INSPECTORS.

DR. AMBROSE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, on 1st February, 1901, a medical man was appointed as Inspector to the Local Government Board of Ireland who had never served in Ireland either as a dispensary or workhouse medical officer, although the chief duties of a medical inspector are to inspect the dispensaries within his district and to ascertain the manner in which the Medical Charities (Ireland) Acts are Administered in such dispensary districts; and can he say why one of the 890 medical men in the Irish Poor Law medical service was not appointed to the vacancy which was filled up by the appointment in February last of Dr. Brandon M'Carthy of Huddersfield.

MR. WYNDHAM: The facts are stated with substantial accuracy in the first paragraph. The gentleman in question is an Irishman, with Irish diplomas, and is a Roman Catholic. I do not think it would be fair to exclude Irishmen from the public service in Ireland merely because they have been temporarily employed in England.

DR. AMBROSE: Why exclude Irishmen? Was not one of the 890 gentlemen in the Irish medical service qualified?

MR. WYNDHAM: The appointment was given to a gentleman who, in our opinion, had a paramount claim to it.

IRISH COUNTY COUNCIL SECRETARIES.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a regular standard of examination has been decided on by the Local Government Board of Ireland for gentlemen appointed to the position of secretaries to county councils; and, if so, will he state what that standard is; and whether councils which prior to the decision of the Court of Appeal in the Wexford case entered into agreements with officials under a misconception of their legal status will be permitted to reopen and reconsider such cases.

MR. WYNDHAM: A person to be eligible for this position must be over twenty-one years of age, and must possess the qualifications prescribed by the General Order of 11th December, 1899. In the absence of these qualifications he is required to undergo an examination in English composition, elementary arithmetic, handwriting, the Local Government Act, and Orders and Accounts. In reply to the second paragraph, I can only suggest again that we should await the result of the Wexford Inquiry.

MR. CULLINAN: Is there no fixed standard? That is the point of my question.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have given the hon. Gentleman the syllabus of the subjects candidates are required to pass.

MR. O'DOHERTY: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to see that these examinations are conducted by men properly qualified for the duty?

MR. WYNDHAM: I will look into the matter to see if there is any doubt on that point.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that by a recent order from the Local Government Board for Ireland boards of guardians and district councils are forbidden to discharge their liabilities except on the monthly finance days, he will, where his rule is a hardship on artisans and small traders, allow a discretionary power to the said Boards to make payments.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board will authorise any board of guardians, upon application, to pay wages to tradesmen and others weekly from the petty cash account where the amount due is under, say, £3.

IRISH TEACHERS' SALARIES.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Irish Education Board not to take into account, in calculating the consolidated incomes of teachers in future, the money earned from instruction given in school farms, in some cases amounting to over £20 per annum for each teacher; and, if so, whether such exclusion is in accordance with the promise made that teachers having vested interests would not suffer any pecuniary loss from the introduction of the new system.

MR. WYNDHAM: This question will come before the Commissioners to-morrow. The hon. Member has been so informed, and told that a reply will be sent to him by letter.

LORD VENTRY'S ESTATE, KERRY.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of future tenants in the estate of Lord Ventry, in Kerry; and how have those future tenancies been created.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Government has no information as to the relative position of tenants on this estate.

MR. FLAVIN: Are not tenants in possession totally debarred from the benefits of this land legislation?

MR. WYNDHAM: I think the hon. Member is well acquainted with the land laws.

MR. FLAVIN: Well I know that there are large numbers in that position.

TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE TOBERCURRY UNION.

MR. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution unanimously adopted by the Tobercurry (County Sligo) Board of Guardians at their meeting on 25th instant, wherein it is stated that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland refuse to give any portion of their grant to that union; whether he can explain why the Agricultural Department arrived at this decision, seeing that a portion of Tobercurry Union is scheduled under the Congested Districts Board and that the ratepayers contribute towards technical and agricultural education in the county Sligo; and whether, under these circumstances, he will see that Tobercurry Union gets its share of this grant.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department has received this resolution. Owing to the desirability of not requiring certain county councils to raise rates for the purposes of the Act of 1899, it was suggested that the county councils might omit from the live stock schemes for 1901 rural districts wholly or largely congested. The Tobercurry district belongs to this latter category, and the Live Stock Committee of the Sligo County Council accordingly decided to omit it from the live stock schemes for this year. The non-congested portions of rural districts thus omitted, however, will not be precluded from obtaining the benefits of the Act in respect of other schemes, as the Department will take into consideration the special circumstances under which the local contribution of such districts has been affected by the foregoing arrangement.

IRISH EMIGRATION STATISTICS.

DR. AMBROSE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of emigrants who left Ireland from 1886 to 1900, inclusive, dividing them into those under fifteen years of age, those between fifteen and thirty-five years, and those over thirty-five years.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of emigrants from Ireland in the period of fifteen years between 1886 and 1900 inclusive was 790,058. Of these, 72,217 were under fifteen years of age, 647,234 were between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five, 69,824 were thirty-five and upwards, and there were 783 whose ages were not specified.

LAND PURCHASE IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.

*MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can inform the House what was the total proportionate amount of the grants under the Land Purchase Acts allocated to Queen's County; how much of that grant has been utilised; and what sum is at present available for the purposes of land purchase in the county.

MR. WYNDHAM: The amount of stock available under the Land Purchase Acts for advances in Queen's County was estimated in 1891 at £421,625. The amount advanced up to 31st December, 1900, was £261,216, leaving £160,409 available for advances since that date. The estimate made in 1891 was only approximate.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) ACCOUNT.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: On behalf of the hon. Member for Carlow, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he state what have been the receipts from the local licence duties and the amount of grant-in-aid paid out of Local Taxation Ireland Account for years ended 31st March, 1900 and 1901 respectively; and if, as suggested in a recent circular letter addressed by the Local Government Board to county councils in Ireland, provision be made for the support of the 4,000 imbeciles at present lodged in Irish workhouses by a grant-in-aid of 2s. per week, can he state what steps he proposes to take to prevent an additional burden on the ratepayers.

MR. WYNDHAM: This question refers, presumably, to the receipts and payments under Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1898. In the year 1899–1900 the amount paid into the Local Taxation Account, as the equivalent of the proceeds of local taxation licences, amounted to £205,832, and the Account also received the sum of £79,000. The payments out of the Account amounted to £251,528. In the year 1900–1901 (which is not yet completed) the Account has received under the former head the sum of £208,086, together with the sum of £79,000, and the Supplementary Vote of £37,030 taken in July last. The payments to date amount to £219,215; further payments amounting to £49,619 are about to be made. In answer to the last query the Local Government Board does not consider that any action which may be taken in pursuance of its circular in respect of the maintenance of chronic lunatics will have the effect of depleting the Local Taxation Account.

STRABANE LABOURERS' COTTAGES

MR. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings in connection with the schemes for erection of labourers' cottages for Strabane Rural Districts, No. 1 and No. 2, and to the delay respecting the latter scheme; and, having regard to the fact that the Local Government Board Inquiry relating to both schemes was held on the same day, and that there were legal proceedings relating to the taking of the lands for the cottages for scheme in District No. 1 which might tend to delay the scheme, while there were no legal proceedings in case of scheme for District No. 2, can he explain why the cottages in the former case are in course of erection, whilst the initial steps have only been taken regarding the acquiring of the land for the sites in cases of District No. 2.

MR. WYNDHAM: Both schemes were, as stated, dealt with at the same inquiry. The Provisional Order in respect of the No. 1 Rural District was issued on the 29th May, 1900, but that in respect of No. 2 Rural District was not made until the 18th February last. This very great delay arose from proposals made at the inquiry that the sites of certain cottages should be changed, and the Board could not include the new sites in its Order until it was furnished with the consent in writing of the persons interested.

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) ACT.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Irish Agricultural Board to carry out Sections 17 and 30 of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act; and whether the Board applied to the Treasury for funds for the purpose; and, if so, with what result.

MR. WYNDHAM: I answered a question on Tuesday last† with reference to Section 17 of the Act. Section 30 deals with a large number of subjects, and it would not be practicable to state the action taken, or proposed to be taken, by the Department under that Section within the limits of a reply to a question. I am unable to answer the second paragraph.

CASTLECOMER COAL MINES.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will recommend that financial aid, either by grant or loan or guarantee of interest of capital, be given to the proposed railway from the coal mines of Castlecomer, county Kilkenny, to the town of Callan, and thence *via* the slate quarries to Carrick-on-Suir.

MR. WYNDHAM: The funds placed at the disposal of the Board of Works for grants or guarantees to railway schemes are already hypothecated. Loans can be made in respect of schemes satisfying the requirements of the Act 1 and 2 William IV., cap. 33.

DUNGANNON DISTURBANCES.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of resolutions passed by the Roman Catholics of Dungannon at a public meeting, protesting against the attack on Roman Catholics by Orangemen on 11th October last, against the arrangements by the police, and demanding an inquiry; whether, seeing that it is a rule of the local authorities that when a Nationalist meeting is taking place in Dungannon or neighbourhood the Orangemen are precluded from drumming in the thoroughfares, can he explain why they were allowed to drum in the public square on 11th October, when a Nationalist meeting was being held at St. Mary's Hall, and a number of persons would have to pass; can he state how many policemen were on duty on that night in Dungannon; how many were injured; what compensation they were awarded, and from what area it is to be levied; and can he state the number and names of those prosecuted for stone-throwing, and why no punishment was inflicted; and whether the demand for further inquiry will be acceded to.

MR. WYNDHAM: A memorial was received to the effect stated in the first paragraph. The memorialists were invited to submit to the Inspector-General any complaints of neglect of duty or breach of discipline on the part of the police. So far, however, they have not done so. I am not aware of the existence of the rule referred to in the second paragraph; but I am informed that on the occasion mentioned the Nationalist party marched through the Orange quarter of the town, accompanied by bands, torches and fireworks, and that missiles were thrown by persons in that party, breaking a valuable plate-glass window in the house of Mr. Knox, who subsequently recovered £15 compensation. The constabulary, numbering seventy-five, took up a position between the hostile crowds. Five constables were injured, one seriously. He has been awarded £300 compensation, to be levied off the county at large. Eighteen persons—nine belonging to each party—were summoned at the suit of the Urban District Council for riotous behaviour. Two of the cases were dismissed on their merits. The solicitor for the defence raised an objection to the form of the summons, and the objection being upheld, the other sixteen cases were dismissed without prejudice. Fresh summonses were then issued, and again dismissed without prejudice. The Urban Council then decided not to proceed further with the cases.

MR. FLAVIN: Do such disturbances occur in the south of Ireland, where the Catholic population is over 90 per cent.?

MR. CULLINAN: The right hon. Gentleman said nine were summoned on each side——

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† See preceding volume, page 1371.

*Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to argue the question.

Mr. CULLINAN: Why was not a larger number prosecuted on the really offending side?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have given all the information I have.

Mr. CULLINAN: Is the plan to be adopted that no matter which side is innocent an equal number shall be prosecuted on each side?

Mr. WYNDHAM: No, Sir.

Mr. DOOGAN: Were any members of the Catholic party identified as having thrown stones, and were not the Orangemen identified as having been guilty of that?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I cannot add to the very full answer I have already given.

MONAGHAN QUARTER SESSIONS—SPIRIT LICENCE TO MR. LESLIE.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at the Monaghan Quarter Sessions on the 26th instant, at which Mr. W. K. Leslie, agent of the Earl of Dartrey, applied for a licence for premises in the townland of Drumgoole; can he state if these are the same premises respecting which an application for licence was refused at a petty sessions court, and such refusal confirmed subsequently by the Court of King's Bench; is he aware that the county court judge and forty magistrates constituted the court of quarter sessions; and can he state how many of these magistrates were entitled under the terms of their appointment to sit at Monaghan Sessions as being the district for which they were appointed justices of the peace.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): The reply to the question in the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The former application to the justices was for a transfer of the old licence; the latter for the grant of a new licence. The application to the King's Bench Division was for a *certiorari* to quash the order of the magistrates on the ground that it was made without jurisdiction, and the only question decided by that court was that the justices had jurisdiction to make the order, but no opinion was expressed upon the justice or propriety of their decisions on the facts. The undertaking required from magistrates to act within particular districts applies to petty, not quarter sessions, and has no application to these proceedings.

Mr. FLYNN: Is it not most unusual and irregular for magistrates to adjudicate outside their own district?

Mr. ATKINSON: There was nothing irregular in this case.

An Hon. Member: Is this the Mr. Leslie who for months has been carrying on a shebeen with the consent of Dublin Castle?

[No answer was returned.]

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Will the right hon. Gentleman give the Members for Ireland some assurance that such a gross injustice shall not——

*Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr. FLYNN: Will the attention of the Lord Chamberlain be drawn to the fact that forty magistrates came over from England to adjudicate in this case?

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Are these magistrates allowed to adjudicate all over Ireland?

[No answer was returned.]

IRISH LAND JUDGES' COURT.

Mr. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Justice Ross has commented adversely on the delay of the proceedings of the Land Judges' Court in Ireland, in reference to sales of estates in that court; that most of the estates in the Land Judges' Court have been there for over ten and some over twenty years; and that a list of rentals, that is, a list showing the tenants on the estate, takes four or five years to make out in that court; and whether, with a view to expedite sales, he will lay a Return upon the Table of the House showing the number of estates in the Land Judges

Court at present, and the dates at which they were put into that court, and the number of sales that have taken place in that court for each of the last ten years, and the prices obtained for each, also the number of estates that have been taken out of the Land Judges' Court within the last two years.

MR. ATKINSON: Mr. Justice Ross has commented on the delay in carrying out sales in his court, and loses no opportunity of urging on solicitors who have carriage of the proceedings the necessity for expedition. The judge has never found fault with the officials of the court. It is not correct to assume that most of the cases have been in court for over ten or twenty years, nor is there any foundation for the statement that the preparation of a rental takes four or five years. The preparation of a Return such as suggested in the second paragraph would throw upon the department of the Land Judge an amount of labour which would not be commensurate with the results to be attained, and the Government are not prepared to consent to the Return.

MR. FLAVIN: Did not Judge Ross find fault with the receivers as well as the solicitors?

MR. ATKINSON: I am not aware of it.

DISQUALIFIED IRISH DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

MR. CULLINAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the decision given in the then Queen's Bench to the effect that the action of the Local Government Board in disqualifying occupants of labourers' cottages from being district councillors was ilegal, he will have steps taken to remove the co-opted members from those councils on which they now act, and have qualified members restored to their rightful positions.

MR. ATKINSON: The Local Government Board has been advised that occupants of labourers' cottages who acquiesced in the view of the law that they were disqualified for being rural district councillors and in the action of district councils in declaring their offices vacant and co-opting other persons in their stead, and who failed to take steps to have the question settled by the High Court, have now no right to oust the councillors co-opted in their place. It is open to the rural district councils, if they wish, to choose any such disqualified councillors to fill the next vacancies on the councils.

MR. CULLINAN: Is it not a fact that the district council was compelled by the Local Government Board to disqualify these men and co-opt others in their place? Why should the responsibility, then, be put on its shoulders?

MR. WYNDHAM: That is not my reading of the matter. As I understand it, a new view of the law was laid down by the recent decision in the King's Bench. It is impossible to re-open what took place before that decision was given.

MR. CULLINAN: But as these district councillors were illegally removed by the order of the Local Government Board, were not their successors illegally co-opted?

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is it not a fair inference to draw from what has occurred that the district councils should never acquiesce in the legal views of the Irish Local Government Board?

[No answer was returned.]

SCOTCH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—RECOGNITION OF IRISH CERTIFICATES.

MR. DOOGAN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Boards of Education in Ireland and England recognise the Scotch qualification of teachers, that the English Code now recognises the Irish certificate, but that the Scotch Code, whilst acknowledging the English certificate, refuses to atach any value to the certificate issued by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland; and whether he will take steps to have recognition of Irish certificates in Scotland.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: As at present advised, the Scotch Education Department sees no sufficient ground for any alteration of the existing practice with respect to Irish certificates.

IRISH LIGHTS BOARD.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the dissatisfaction which prevails in mercantile and shipping circles in Ireland with regard to the Irish Lights Board, he would consider the desirability of appointing a Select Committee to inquire into the constitution of the Board, with the object of putting it upon a more representative basis.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir. Until the effect of the appointment of the Advisory Committee is more fully known, it does not appear to me to be necssary to institute a special inquiry into the question referred to.

CORK POST OFFICE—MISSING MONEY ORDER.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the case of a letter enclosing a money order value 50s., sent from Bo'ness, in Scotland, addressed to Cork but not delivered to the addressee; is he aware that the addressee applied to the Cork Post Office concerning the non-delivery of the letter, giving particulars, and was subsequently informed that the money order had been paid at the Cork office, bearing the forged signature of said payee; can he explain why payment of the amount of the money order abstracted has been refused, in view of the fact that the letter was never delivered to the residence of addressee; and have other complaints of a similar character been made with regard to the non-delivery of money orders, and will inquiries be made by the postal authorities.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The case has been carefully inquired into; but as the money order was sent in an unregistered letter it has not been possible to ascertain whether or not the letter was delivered as addressed, and in such circumstances no claim to compensation for the loss can be entertained. The person to whom the money order was paid has not been identified, and when a money order, by whomsoever presented, has once been paid, the Postmaster General is not liable to any further claim. This is the only case of fraudulent negotiation of a money order sent by post which has occurred in the Cork district during the past twelve months.

Mr. FLYNN: If it can be proved that the letter was never delivered, will the Postmaster General take further steps in the matter?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think as it was not a registered letter the Postmaster General will not admit liability. But perhaps the hon. Member will put down another question, as I would prefer to obtain the Postmaster General's views on the point.

IRISH SUB-POSTMASTERS—REMUNERATION GRIEVANCES.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether complaints have been received from or on behalf of sub-masters in Ireland with reference to their remuneration; whether he is aware that the hours of duty of these officials range from thirteen to fourteen hours daily on week-days, and two to three hours on Sundays, while their total salary averages less than £70 per annum, out of which has to be provided an office, clerical assistance, light, and fuel, and that this was admitted as an injustice by the Tweedmouth Committee; can he state the average emoluments of a sub-postmaster in England; and will steps be taken to place Irish sub-postmasters in as good a position as that held by English officials.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No general complaint has been received from or on behalf of sub-postmasters in Ireland with reference to their remuneration. The Postmaster General is aware that the hours during which sub-offices are open for post office business are generally thirteen a day—namely, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., but, of course, the personal attendance of sub-postmasters is not required during the whole of that period. The duties are shared by the sub-postmaster and his assistants, who are often also employed in the sub-master's private business. The hon. Member appears to be under a misapprehension as to the finding of the Tweedmouth Committee respecting the remuneration of sub-postmasters. The Committee reported that the advantages of holding a sub-office are considerable, and that they could not recommend any general increase of remuneration. They did, however, recommend that the Post Office should fully consider the various items on which a sub-postmaster's salary is based, so as to ensure the sufficiency of his emoluments at every point; and this has been done, with the result that increased pay was given on certain items—notably Sunday work—at an additional expense of nearly £30,000. The average emoluments of a sub-postmaster in England cannot be stated. There are some 15,000 such officers. Irish sub-postmasters are paid on a common scale with sub-postmasters in the rest of the United Kingdom, and are in all respects in as good a position as English sub-postmasters.

MR. O'DOHERTY: Am I to understand that Irish sub-postmasters are paid extra for Sunday work?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am told they are paid on the same scale as English sub-postmasters. If the hon. Member wishes further information I must ask for notice.

MR. O'DOHERTY: But what I want to get at is, have their salaries been increased for Sunday work?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that to be so, but I cannot give the rates of increase. As a result of the Tweedmouth Committee's Report increased pay was given them on several items, and notably on Sunday work.

LONDONDERRY POSTMASTERSHIP.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state the date of the retirement of the last Postmaster of Londonderry; why the vacancy thus caused has not been advertised in the Postal Weekly Circular in the usual manner; whether the vacancy has yet been filled; and, if not, what is the cause of the delay in appointing a new Postmaster.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The date of the retirement of the late Postmaster of Londonderry is 11th February, 1901. It is not the practice of the Department to advertise all vacancies for Postmasters in the Weekly Circular, and it was not considered necessary to do so in the case of Londonderry. The vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Mr. A. Fraser, Postmaster of Douglas, Isle of Man, and there was no unnecessary delay in making the appointment.

POYNTZPASS POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that, though the first mail from Newry is due in Poyntzpass, county Armagh, at 7.30 a.m., and the second at 8 a.m., the letters are not delivered till about 8.30 or sometimes 9 o'clock, so that business people have frequently to send to the post office for their letters; and whether he will see that letters are delivered more regularly and expeditiously.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The first mail is due at Poyntzpass by mail car from Newry at 7.30 a.m., the second mail is due at Poyntzpass by train at about 8 a.m., and the delivery of letters should commence at about 8.20 a.m. The circumstances do not appear to justify two separate deliveries, but every effort will be made to have the letters delivered as expeditiously as possible.

EDUCATION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): I beg to ask the first Lord of the Treasury whether it is still the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce the Bill for the amendment of the Law relating to Education, which was promised in the King's Speech; and, in that case, whether he can promise that it shall be introduced before Whitsuntide.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) I hope the Government Bill for the amendment of the Law relating to Education will be introduced before Easter, but I cannot pledge myself with regard to the date.

EDUCATION CODE—HIGHER ELEMENTARY MINUTE.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the ruling of the Speaker on 28th March, 1899, that the thirty days should run from the date at which the Code was actually available to Members, it was in order to fix the date for the coming into operation of the Education Code, 1901, at one month from 28th March, seeing that the Code was not at that date available for Members and is not yet in their hands; and whether, in view of the extreme importance of the document, he will give an opportunity for the discussion of the Code and Minute with regard to higher education before they will be put into operation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I understand the first part of the question, it is one on a point of order and should be addressed to the Chair. With regard to the last part, I may remind the hon. Member that there have been two debates on the subject—one on the King's Speech this year, and one last year.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will it be possible to secure that the Code does not come into operation for thirty days after it is available to Members? It is not yet in their hands.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will give notice of that question to the Vice-President of the Board of Education.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MILK STANDARDS.

MR. STRACHEY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can say what opportunity there will be for the House to consider the Report and recommendations of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Agriculture, in reference to fixing standards for milk, cream, and separated milk before they are adopted.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that the Departmental Committee reported about a fortnight ago, and that my right hon. friend at the head of the Board of Agriculture proposes to give a reasonable time for representation to be made by those interested as to the mode in which that Report should be dealt with. I do not think that an opportunity could or ought to be given to the House for dealing with a matter within the discretion of the Department and vested in them by statute.

MR. STRACHEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to arrange that the Vote for the Board of Agriculture shall not be guillotined, so that the House may have an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the subject?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give an undertaking to that effect, although, of course, I am ready with regard to this as to other Votes to consult the general wish and convenience of the House.

PRIVILEGE—"STRANGERS PRESENT"—VACATION OF OFFICES ON DEMISE OF THE CROWN.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I desire to call attention to a matter of privilege affecting most seriously the dignity and proceedings of the House. I spy strangers within the Bar. I believe there are several strangers within the Bar, but the particular stranger I have now in my mind is the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury. By a Statute of Queen Anne any one appointed a Minister of the Crown vacates his seat by the appointment. I read in the *London Gazette* of 25th January the following—

> "This day the Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour was by His Majesty's commands sworn First Lord of the Treasury."

The right hon. Gentleman was reappointed, but surely a reappointment necessarily is an appointment? That, at any rate, is the contention which is held by a very large number of Members of this House, and I believe that it is a correct contention. Under the circumstances, I ask whether the Deputy Speaker sees his way to direct the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury to retire from this Chamber, or whether, if he thinks his authority does not stretch to that point, as a matter of privilege I have a right to move that the right hon. Gentleman be invited to withdraw from the House.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand the hon. Member for Northampton takes exception to the presence here of the First Lord of the Treasury on the ground that he accepted an appointment in the month of January, and that thereby he vacated his seat. I cannot decide whether the hon. Member for Northampton is correct in that surmise or not, but anyhow it seems to me that he cannot be serious in asking me to look upon the First Lord of the Treasury as a stranger here. If there is anything in the point it ought to have been raised on the first appearance of the First Lord of the Treasury, and this is not the first appearance the First Lord has made in the House this session. If the hon. Member seeks to raise the question as a matter of privilege, I think he will also be aware that it is the essence of privilege that the motion should be brought in at once—as soon as the wrongdoing takes place. In this case notice, if taken at all, should have been taken at the commencement of the session. I think the hon. Member for Northampton is too late.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I wish to ask you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this question. Supposing that a Member taking the Chiltern Hundreds was in the habit of strolling into the House after he had accepted it. Suppose no one knew him by sight—would that gentleman secure the right to come into the House? I have had brought quite recently to my notice the fact that day after day the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury has occupied a most prominent place in a most prominent part of the House. This is a very serious matter if the right hon. Gentleman has no right to sit here. I would therefore ask you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether a Member has waived his privilege by not calling attention to the presence of a stranger before; whether the offence is not a continuous one; and whether it is not open at any time to any Member to call attention to the fact of a stranger being present? Further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you consider you have no right to order him to withdraw, I ask whether the matter cannot be brought before the House? I would remind you that Mr. Bradlaugh was frequently invited to leave the House—force being used on one occasion—and whenever he appeared in the House some hon. Gentleman got up—I am not quite certain that the right hon. Gentleman, the First Lord of the Treasury, was not one of them—to call attention to his presence

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The case which the hon. Member for Northampton has just put makes the case perfectly clear. He said that whenever Mr. Bradlaugh appeared in the House notice was immediately taken of the fact. That really is the point. The moment the First Lord of the Treasury appeared in the House the hon. Member for Northampton, with his usual vigilance, ought to have taken notice of his presence.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I want to ask whether the offence, if there be one, is not a continuing one, and whether it is not repeated every time the right hon. Gentleman enters the House?

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter for the courts of law to decide.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Supposing the contention of the hon. Member for Northampton, that the right hon. Gentleman has accepted office, is well founded, I would ask you how that matter could be called attention to in this House, if not by the House?

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the same manner as in the case of Mr. Bradlaugh. Proceedings were taken in the courts of law against that gentleman. I think there was also another hon. Member against whom similar proceedings were taken—Dr. Clark.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do meet to-morrow at two of the clock."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I do not object; but I think there should be a clear understanding as to what the business is to be. I think that the only Government business on the Paper should be the motion for the adjournment for the holidays. If that were so, no one would have any objection, and the result of that state of things would be that hon. Gentlemen could discuss various questions in which they are interested.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Assuming that the Second Reading of the Army (Annual) Bill is not agreed to to-night I shall have to put it down as the first Order of the day on to-morrow's Paper, and the motion for the adjournment for the holidays would come next. On that motion almost any question may be raised which hon. Gentlemen desire to discuss. Some hon. Gentlemen, I believe, wish to raise a question in regard to the Board of Trade. At nine o'clock to-morrow evening the House will meet for private Members' business.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I would ask another question, which is quite germane to this particular motion—what business does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take to-night?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think anything beyond Report of Supply.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): Do I understand that the Government will make a House to-morrow evening?

[No answer was returned.]

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW BILLS.

LIGHT RAILWAYS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I beg to ask for leave to bring in a Bill to continue and amend the Light Railways Act, 1896. The present Act will lapse on December 31st of the present year, and the Bill proposes that the powers of the Commissioners should be prolonged for a further period of five years, namely, until 31st December, 1906. The Bill also proposes sundry Amendments in the Act of 1896. Under that Act there is power to raise the salary of one of the Commissioners only. It provides that a salary not exceeding £1,000 a year might be paid to another Commissioner, who must be a barrister of not less than seven years' standing. It is the intention that the salary of the Secretary to the Commission should be increased, and that he should devote his entire time to the work. Changes are also made in regard to advances of money under the principal Act. The Treasury had power to advance money either by way of ordinary loan or by way of a special advance for the purpose of benefiting agriculture, fishing, or some other definite industry. The total amount which might be advanced under the Act of 1896 was £1,000,000, and of this the amount available for special advances was limited to £250,000. The Bill does not propose to alter the total amount available for advances, but to increase the sum available for special advances to £750,000. Up to the present time no money has been applied for by way of ordinary loan, but by way of special advances promises have been made to the extent of about £200,000. The Bill is quite short, but it is very desirable that it should be passed, otherwise the operations of the Light Railways Act of 1896, which has been extremely beneficial, will necessarily be brought to a close. I beg to move.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): As the right hon. Gentleman has said, a Bill of this kind is absolutely necessary, and therefore I have no objection to offer to its being introduced. The points to which he has called attention will be discussed on the Second Reading, and it is hardly necessary that I should go fully into them now. But I take the opportunity of saying that it would be convenient, at the Second Reading, or as soon after as possible, if the right hon. Gentleman could give us a Return of all the moneys that have already been advanced.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have already undertaken that such a Return will be prepared.

MR. BRYCE: As to the question of special grants as distinct from ordinary loans, I think experience has shown that the course the right hon. Gentleman proposes to take is called for. I would like to suggest, further, that, as the Bill will include a great many points of detail not mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman, some of which are subjects of difficulty, judging from what I know of the difficulty of working the present Act, I think it is desirable that a considerable interval should be allowed to elapse between the printing of the Bill and the taking of the Second Reading. As we will not be back till the 18th, I do not think the right hon. Gentleman should take the Second Reading within a fortnight or three weeks from that date.

because it is desirable that the provisions should become thoroughly known. Subject to that, and perfect freedom when details are considered, I have no objection to offer to the introduction of the Bill.

Bill to continue and amend the Light Railways Act, 1896, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Hanbury, and The Lord Advocate.

LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL.

"To continue and amend The Light Railways Act, 1896," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 137.]

FISHERIES (IRELAND).

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I beg to ask for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Steam Trawling (Ireland) Act, 1889.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I do not want to detain the right hon. Gentleman or to discuss this Bill, because I have had the opportunity of learning the right hon. Gentleman's views on the subject. I have risen for the purpose of expressing the hope that he will give the House some assurance that on some stage of the Bill, by preference the Committee stage, we will have some moderate opportunity of discussion. The principle of the Bill we are all in favour of, and we are anxious to see it passed; but we are not quite so unanimous in favour of all its details. I do not think that a long period will be required, but we cannot take the responsibility of allowing it to pass without any discussion.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am well aware that the hon. Gentleman is in favour of the Bill, and also that amendments are desired on two or three subsidiary points. Although I cannot promise Government time, I think it would be reasonable that half an hour or three-quarters of an hour should be obtained at the Committee stage, and I should join the hon. Member in the request that there should be a limited discussion upon the details in Committee.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: On that understanding I do not make any objection; but if the understanding falls through, I must reserve my right to oppose the Bill at the Second Reading stage.

MR. WYNDHAM: That would be our common misfortune.

Bill to amend the Steam Trawling (Ireland) Act, 1889, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.

FISHERIES (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Steam Trawling (Ireland) Act, 1889," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 138.]

DUBLIN CORPORATION.

Bill to amend sections twenty-three and twenty-six of the Dublin Corporation Act, 1900, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

"To amend sections twenty-three and twenty-six of the Dublin Corporation Act, 1900," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed [Bill 139.]

DEMISE OF THE CROWN BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading, read.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Upon a point of order, Sir. I observe that this Bill seriously affects the interest of certain Members of this House, and under those circumstances I would ask you whether you would not ask them to withdraw while this Bill is under discussion.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the hon. Gentleman is in error. It is only customary to ask hon. Members to withdraw when there is a motion under discussion affecting their conduct.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I would point out that the introduction of this Bill does seriously affect their conduct, because so far as I can see it is an act of grace to relieve them of certain penalties which they have incurred owing to their conduct.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I have it in command from His Majesty the King, to state that he has placed his interests as affected by this Bill at the disposal of Parliament.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I have not very much to add to what I said when I asked leave to introduce this Bill, but as the matter is somewhat technical and many hon. Gentlemen were not present when I introduced it, it might perhaps be convenient if I stated the nature of this Bill again. The nature of this Bill is to render the reappointment to offices under the Crown unnecessary in consequence of the demise of the Crown of this country. The contract of service is always put an end to by the death of the master, and it has been held that this, of course, does not in the slightest degree touch the prerogative of the Crown to dismiss the servants of the Crown at pleasure. According to the doctrine of the common law, if a servant were engaged for a year and the master happened to die in the middle of the year, the servant could get no wages at all, because he had contracted to serve for a year and the master had died before the year was completed. That principle, whatever its merits might be, has been applied by the common law to the case of the servants of the Crown. It has been applied in the case of those who are appointed more or less directly by the Crown, and it would apply in the case of those who were appointed by such a great officer as the Viceroy of Ireland, who is the representative of the Crown. It has, of course, never been applied to the great mass of the civil servants in this country, because, although they hold office under the Crown, they are not appointed directly by the Crown, and it has never been suggested that they should vacate their offices on the death of the Sovereign. It has never been suggested that commissions in the Navy were affected by the demise of the Crown, because they have always been made out by the Lords of the Admiralty, and therefore officers in the Navy continue to hold their appointments despite the demise of the Crown. But commissions in the Army, which are made out by the Sovereign, have to be renewed, and an Act was passed in 1837 to provide that it should not be necessary that within six months after the demise of the Crown every commission held by an officer in the Army should be vacated. A rule of this kind is one which is obviously one that is calculated to produce a very great deal of inconvenience, and if the successor happened to be abroad at the time of the demise of the Crown the inconvenience would be very much aggravated. The whole body politic would be in a sort of suspended animation until appointments were made and it was revived. In 1707 the Legislature, having regard to the inconvenience in which the provisions of the common law would result, knowing that the successor of Anne would be the Elector of Hanover, and that in all probability he would be out of England at the time of the demise of the Crown, provided by statute that all offices under the Crown should continue to be held for six months after the demise of the Crown, so that they might be continued on until the King came and terminated them, either by dismissing the officers, or continuing them in office; and in 1830 in the case of the colonies the period was extended to eighteen months. These two statutes are still in force. To give an illustration familiar to most hon. Members of the House, the justices of the peace hold office from the Crown. They hold a commission from the Sovereign for the purposes of keeping the peace and administering justice, to a certain extent. That commission would have lapsed by the demise of the Crown, but the effect of the Act is to continue them in office for six months, during which time they may or may not take the oath of allegiance to the new Sovereign, but at the end of the six months it would be necessary for the justices of the peace to be reappointed, or their commissions would lapse. They might be reappointed either by special or general commission, whichever His Majesty thought fit to have recourse to, and upon the reappointment the justice of the peace would have to take the oath of allegiance before he could perform the duties of his new commission. In the same way, on the demise of the Crown Ministers remain in office for six months under the statute of Anne, and may properly take the oath of allegiance to the existing Sovereign. Before or on the expiration of the six months it is necessary that Ministers should be reappointed, and the mode of reappointment varies according to the nature of the offices—sometimes by patent, sometimes by handing over the seals of office and receiving them back from the new Sovereign.

All this necessity for reappointment on the demise of the Crown is really a relic of bygone days, when constitutional government, as we now understand it, had not been evolved in this country. The modern conception, of course, is that the Ministers of the Crown hold office as the servants of the Sovereign and of the State, and it would be somewhat remarkable if the old doctrine of law were to operate to the general inconvenience. In the days when this rule was established Parliament itself was at once dissolved by the demise of the Crown, the functions of all Ministers ceased, because they were regarded as being the personal servants of the Sovereign who had died, and the very judges were regarded as holding office at the will of the Crown, and ceased to be judges. This rule, inconvenient as it was, still exists both in regard to appointments at home, appointments in India and the colonies, and appointments under the Crown of this country abroad. In the case of appointments in the United Kingdom it applied not only to Ministers but to justices of the peace, lords lieutenant, sheriffs, and other officers. The many questions which have been asked in this House upon this subject during the last two weeks are quite enough to show the inconvenience of the rule as applied to lords lieutenant, sheriffs, and other officers. In India and the colonies it would apply, not to mention other officials, to governors general and governors; but in the case of the colonies the inconvenience of the rule is to a considerable extent mitigated by the prolongation of the tenure of office for six or eighteen months respectively. But the rule applies to offices held out of the British dominions as well, and the case of our great protectorates deserves particular consideration. Technically, the protectorates, for this purpose, are not regarded as being part of the British dominions. They are ours, but for this purpose they are not so regarded; and the result is that the common law rule applies without any qualification at all, and consequently every officer would go out of office, and it was felt that if that rule were acted on it was calculated to lead to the most absurd and monstrous results—the entire paralysis of all government in the places which really wanted steady and continuous government. But of course, it is not observed in practice; the officers go on and take the risk of what they do not being ratified. The object of this Bill is to bring the law into harmony with commonsense. Seeing that neither at home nor abroad are any reappointments necessary in consequence of the demise of the Crown, there is no reason at all for keeping up an obsolete rule of this kind. The measure we propose will not in the slightest degree trench on the prerogatives of the Crown. I do not know whether there are any objections to the measure upon its merits.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Will the right hon. Gentleman explain Paragraph 1 in Clause 1?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: What is it? I regret that I have not the Bill before me at the moment.

MR. LABOUCHERE: "The Act shall take effect as from the demise of the Crown."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: That means that the Bill is to apply and will apply as from the death of Her late Majesty, and will have the effect of obviating the necessity for reappointments in the case of any offices, whether in the United Kingdom, the colonies, India, or foreign parts, including protectorates. I hope I have now made it clear to the hon. Gentleman, who, I think, had he considered the matter, would have been able to satisfy himself. I have observed that the explanation which I gave when moving for leave to introduce the Bill as to its effect in removing the liability of

Ministers who hold offices in this House has caused quite a flutter of excitement in some bosoms. A suggestion has been made as to the possibility of Ministers being made liable to penalties. That very estimable class of people, at present among the unemployed, "common informers," would in that case have a splendid career before them. They would find in some scores of divisions I do not know how many Ministers, and if every Minister were liable for a penalty of £500 for every division, there would for them, if I may make use of a phrase of Dr. Johnson's, "potentialities of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice."

MR. LABOUCHERE: Hear, hear!

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: That is a picture which seems to commend itself particularly to the imagination of the hon. Member for Northampton.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will allow me to remind him that the Treasury would get half, and I was looking at it from the point of view of the taxpayer.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The hon. Member for Northampton is always in the field first if anything of a sporting character comes before the House, and though the hon. Gentleman's motives were of a sporting character, I am almost sorry to hear that there is a greater motive. I am afraid that when the other day the Chancellor of the Exchequer held out no hope of any increase to the revenue from this source it was like a douche of cold water to some hon. Gentlemen. It is always painful to have to throw cold water upon dreamers of that sort, and to awaken to the facts those who have been indulging in those golden dreams. I am afraid that anything I have to say will not prove at all encouraging to any gentlemen who may have thought of acting on the hints thrown out. The first consideration I have to suggest for the attention of any enterprising gentleman who may have thought of bringing such actions as have been suggested is whether the clause with regard to penalties has any application whatever to the clause which requires re-election. I think that anyone who reads these sections with attention will see good reason to suppose that the clause as to penalties will only apply to the case of those totally disabled and disqualified by the Statute of Anne. The words are not applicable to the present case. If the hon. and learned Gentleman who may be interested in this matter will look at the statute passed with reference to the same matter as it affects appointments held in Ireland, he will find that it is perfectly clear on the reading of that section that the penalty section has no application whatever to the present case. The Act relating to Ireland is as clear as can be on the subject—that the penalties do not apply in the case of those who are eligible for appointments. A question might come up in the House itself as to whether a particular Member had ceased to hold his seat by reason of being reappointed in consequence of the demise of the Crown. Reappointment would become necessary at the end of six months, and the question might then emerge when the reappointment had taken place.

It may be for the convenience of the House if I explain very concisely what the precise nature of this matter is. In 1867, in the Representation of the People Act, it was provided that with regard to a large number of Ministerial appointments the exchange of one of those appointments for another should not necessitate any vacation of the seat. That is to say, in the case of the law officers, for instance, if an hon. and learned Member were promoted from the post of one law officer to that of the other, that was to fall within the schedule, and no re-election was to be required. The suggestion has been made that a reappointment to the same office comes within the meaning and intention of the statute, and that re-election would be necessary, and as the suggestion has been seriously entertained I will deal with it. Such a suggestion amounts to this, that if all the Ministers chose to engage in a game of "general post," and took each other's offices, then no re-election need take place, but if Ministers were reappointed direct to others they had held up to the moment of the demise of the Crown then they would require to be re-elected. If that were the law it would be absolutely preposterous.

and no words would be too strong to describe its absurdity.

In the course of the many questions asked last week we were told that this was a great constitutional question. I have the greatest respect for the ingenuity of hon. Gentlemen who take that view, but I venture to say that to talk of this as a great constitutional question shows an absence of sense of proportion, and I submit with "bated breath," in presence of a good many of my fellow countrymen, that it shows a little lack of humour. If this is a great constitutional question, in the name of common sense where would a small constitutional question be found? There is absolutely nothing in the point of law unless the reappointment to the same office was acceptance of office within the 26th section of the statute of Anne, and if not the whole point crumbles away. Authority is not altogether wanting on this question, for in 1809 there arose the question in reference to the appointment of Mr. Perceval as First Lord of the Treasury. He had been before Chancellor of the Exchequer, being as such a Commissioner of the Treasury. He was made First Lord of the Treasury, with, of course, an increase of salary. The question arose whether he had vacated his seat by the acceptance of that appointment. Both the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Speaker Abbot—one of the most distinguished occupants of the Speaker's Chair—agreed that the seat was not vacated, and Mr. Abbot, in his letter, declared "that to accept the same office under a new commission has never in practice been held to vacate a seat." I have verified the reference given in "May's Parliamentary Practice" from Walpole's "Life of Perceval," and the letter may be read there by any hon. and learned Gentleman. It seems perfectly clear that reappointment does not come within the meaning of the statute and the mischief at which the Act was levelled. I suppose the intention of the section was that if a Member took office under the Crown after his election, then his constituents should have the opportunity of expressing their opinion upon his action. But there was no application of the statute to the case of a Member who held office when he was elected and who before six months elapsed was reappointed to the office he held when elected as a Member. I do not think that any Member of the House will contend that such a case is within the mischief at which the Act of Anne was directed. If the matter came before the House for decision in any form I do not doubt that a large proportion of the House would vote, in accordance with the dictum of Speaker Abbot, and with sense and reason, that re-election was not necessary. That certainly is the view I take. I do not wish to dogmatise on the point, because I know it is one on which opinions may differ, but for what my opinion is worth I give it to the House. I think that that would represent not only the spirit but the letter of the statute. I have tried to explain the nature of this measure. I submit to the House that the Bill is useful and will obviate a great many troublesome questions which might arise in the United Kingdom and in the colonies, while it will do a great deal more than prevent inconveniencies in the case of protectorates, where indeed it is almost a necessity. The Bill will dissipate possible doubts of a technical character, to solve which would involve considerations and subtleties which may appeal to the minds of some, but which I believe the House will regard as having little weight. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I rise to move that this Bill be read a second time this day six months. I regret that the Attorney General in asking leave to introduce this Bill did not make a statement similar to that to which we have now listened.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The hon. Gentleman will see from the report that I made a similar statement.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I had to look at the report in *The Times*, as I could not get the official report. The report there is quite different from the statement he has made to-day in asking the House to pass the Second Reading of the measure. If the constitutional law of this country is as laid down by the hon. Gentleman, what is the object of the Government in introducing this Bill? There is absolutely no necessity whatever for the Bill if the hon. Gentleman, as a lawyer, believes what he has stated in the House just now. I have looked into the question, and as one who has studied a little law some years ago, I, myself, am indebted to the hon. Gentleman for the opportunity he has given me of reading up and refreshing my memory upon this question of constitutional law. The hon. Gentleman in introducing the Bill laid particular stress upon Sub-section 1 of Section I. of the Bill, and although attention was called to the fact by the junior Member for Northampton that there was such a thing as Sub-section 2 in the Bill as introduced, he passed that over and hardly referred to it at all. I think hon. Members will agree with me that the first section of the Bill revolutionises the constitutional government of this House and of the country. Thinking, as I do, that the will of the people should be supreme even above the will or wish of the Sovereign, I am satisfied that if the Bill contained only that sub-section, we would take no exception whatever to it. That sub-section is a step in the right direction, and I trust the hon. and learned Gentleman will ultimately carry it much further. The majority of this House, as representing the majority of the nation, no matter how the majority may have been obtained, should have an absolute right to name its own Ministers of the Crown, without the veto of His Majesty.

The sub-section to which I take exception is Sub-section 2, which provides that this Act shall take effect from the last demise of the Crown. Before considering the full effect and meaning of that sub-section, I wish to state the law as I read it on this vexed question. The first statute dealing with the matter is 6 Anne, c. 41, Section 8 of which enacts that—

> "if the office or place of Lord Chancellor or any other office of the Crown becomes void by reason of the demise or death of her present Majesty, her heirs or successors, queens or kings, of this realm, the office shall not become void for six months next after such death or demise."

and then come some remarkable words, which to my mind have a great bearing on the question under discussion—

> "Unless the Minister is sooner removed or discharged by the next in succession as aforesaid."

Section 25 of the same Act enacts that if—

> "any person being chosen a Member of the House of Commons, shall accept of any office of profit from the Crown during such time as he shall continue a Member, his election shall be and is hereby declared to be void, and a new writ shall issue for a new election as if such person so accepting was naturally dead."

Therefore, if we apply that Act to the right hon. Gentlemen opposite—I submit this in all sincerity—the occupants of the front Treasury Bench are not duly there, and this Chamber has been turned into a cemetery. If on the question of privilege you had been asked to remove those men as legally and politically dead, you should at once have called in the constabulary and ordered the carcases to be removed. Section 28 of the same Act declares that the penalty shall be £500 for each time such a Member sits or votes in this House. That Act is still in force, and it is the law of the land to-day so far as it relates to Ministers holding office on the demise of the Crown.

Let us consider the position which the present Ministers occupy. By Section 8 of the Statute of Anne the right hon. Gentlemen were, on the death of Her late Majesty, to remain in office for six months "unless sooner removed or dicharged" by His Majesty King Edward VII. The only meaning to be placed upon those words is that His Majesty might have continued the Ministers of the late Sovereign for a space of six months without appointing any new Ministers to replace them, and at the end of six months reappointed those Ministers to their respective offices. According to 41 Geo. III., cap, 52, the moment a Member of this House was appointed to any office under the Crown he was bound to seek re-election, and the Act also provided that if any Member accepted an office subject to the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant or the Lords Justices of Ireland his seat became vacant. But this was not the course of procedure adopted by the right hon. Gentlemen opposite. The moment Her late Majesty died the present Sovereign reappointed all the old Ministers, and the appointments were duly gazetted. I submit that by the reappointment of those gentlemen His Majesty, to quote the words of the Statute of Anne, "removed and discharged" the old Ministers from the offices held by them under Her late Majesty. If the law had been properly administered the Speaker, immediately the appointments appeared in the *London*

Gazette, should have issued his writs for new elections. That not having been done, the right hon. Gentlemen have, to my mind, incurred the penalty of £500 every time they have walked through the division lobby, or taken their seats in the House. It is a pity that those penalties are not levied, because they would amount to enormous sums, and would, perhaps, prevent the Chancellor of the Exchequer imposing the rumoured tax on sugar.

There is one other Act which throws a great deal of light upon this question, namely. 54 Geo. III., cap. 16. That Act recited in detail the section I have already referred to, and also that—

> "grave doubts have arisen as to whether Ministers in Ireland who are Members of the House of Commons should not have to seek re-election on a succeeding Lord Lieutenant coming over to Ireland."

To remove those doubts that Act was passed and did away with the necessity of any officer of the Crown holding office under the Lord Lieutenant or Lords Justices of Ireland seeking re-election on their reappointment to such office.

What was the position in which the present Ministers found themselves on the demise of the Crown? A general election had just been fought—and fought on as false an issue as was ever placed before the electorate of Great Britain. The party opposite found themselves once more in office, with an enormous majority. A short time afterwards the Queen died. The electorate discovered that the statement that the war was over was false, and right hon. Gentlemen opposite did not care to adopt the procedure laid down in the Statute of Anne, to continue in office for six months, and then, on their reappointment by the King, seek re-election, knowing that they could not again treat the electorate as before, and that they probably would not retain thier seats. They therefore got His Majesty to reappoint them immediately, trusting to their large majority to carry such an Act of Indemnity—as the present Bill really is—relating back to the demise of the late Sovereign. I trust I have put clearly before the House my view of the present state of the law on this matter. With all due respect to Mr. Deputy Speaker, I submit that the provisions of 31 and 32 Vict., cap. 110, should have been put in force the moment the present appointments of the Ministers appeared in the *London Gazette*. That not having been done, we find ourselves with the Treasury Bench filled—in the language of the statute—with "naturally dead" men, who, to save themselves from the enormous penalties incurred by their unconstitutional action, produce this Bill as an Act of Indemnity for their past offences. We take exception to the fact that the hon. and learned Gentleman did not call a spade a spade, and frankly state to the House that he and his colleagues had broken the law in this respect, and that it was necessary for them to get a Bill passed as an Act of Indemnity. Notwithstanding what fell from the lips of the hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney-General, I consider that this is one of the most unconstitutional acts ever submitted by a Minister of the Crown to the British House of Commons. I appeal to hon. Members of this House to cast all questions of party to the wind, and stand up for the constitutional traditions of this House and of this kingdom by voting against this Act, and thereby teach Ministers that when they dare to tamper with the constitution of the British Empire the House of Commons will not tolerate it. I have great pleasure in moving that this Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): The Attorney General in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, deprecated the notion that it had any constitutional importance. I should have thought that the elaborate speech he himself made—and it was a very lucid speech—dissipated any notion that this Bill was not of any constitutional importance. This Bill affects the relation of the King to all persons holding office under the Crown. I wish we had had before us more clearly the Message from the King which was read by the Home Secretary to the effect that he renounced his interest in the patronage affected by this Bill. I imagine that "patronage" was used by a slip instead of "prerogative," and that alone gives the Bill some constitutional importance. It also affects the relations between this House and a most important section of the House—namely, the Ministers of the day, and it touches many important statutes, the difficulty of the interpretation of which is admitted. These facts justify us in holding that this is a Bill of some considerable constitutional importance. The Attorney General's speech is perfectly clear, and, to a large extent, convincing, and it is much to be regretted that through some inexplicable accident the similar speech which he made on the introduction of the Bill did not appear in any newspaper in the country, and, so far as I know, will not appear in the official reports. This Bill is intended to deal with two separate and distinct difficulties. The Attorney General has told us that the common law still prevails as to all offices under the Crown held outside the dominions of the Kingdom, including the Protectorates, but he does not tell us whether that included the Ambassadors.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: It does.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: That is again of portentous constitutional importance. On the merits of that proposal or against it I have nothing to say, but the hon. Member who has just sat down has put his finger on the main blot of this Bill—namely, its retrospective character. Treating it now in connection with the offices of the Crown held abroad, I ask the hon. and learned Gentleman why it has been necessary to make this Bill retrospective? He has told us that the common law prevails as to these great and important officers, and that the effect of the common law is to paralyse all these offices. Before this Bill can even go into Committee, three months will have elapsed since the demise of the Crown, and am I to be told that these offices have not been filled up and will not be filled up? Has His Majesty's Government on account of this paralysis refrained from reappointing all this time, all these important officers, including Ambassadors? This is a most astounding story if it is true. I did not think that the "new diplomacy" had gone so far.

The second difficulty which this Bill is intended to meet is that connected with the vacation of seats by Ministers of the Crown. The first thing the House has got to ascertain about that is what is the law, and about that opinions may no doubt be divided. What are the facts? It is on questions of fact that we must concentrate our attention. It appears to me pretty clear that under the provisions of the 6th of Anne, Ministers reappointed either within or after the expiration of six months must seek re-election, but I admit that that is an arguable point. The Attorney General has referred to 41 George III., chapter 52, as if it related to offices in Ireland only.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: It refers to Members of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, but it was passed with special reference to offices in Ireland.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I contend that it was passed exactly as the 6th of Anne was passed, and numerous clauses in the Act dealt with seats in Great Britain as well as in Ireland, Section 9 declares—

> "That if any Member of the House of Commons shall accept any office of profit whatever immediately and directly from the Crown of the United Kingdom, or from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, then his seat shall become vacant and a writ shall issue that he may be re-elected."

I believe that that is the law which governs this case. A later Act, which recites this section, declares that the rule of the vacation of seats is no longer to apply to an appointment made by successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland, but it contains no similar provision in regard to appointments by the Sovereign. The inference I draw is that it was the intention of Parliament not to give that relief to successive appointments by the Sovereign. If there is a *casus omissus*, it is a case of deliberate omission in order to retain the vacation of seats on the reappointment of Ministers at the demise of the Crown. The hon. and learned Gentleman has quoted for the first time a *dictum* of Mr. Speaker Abbot that, where a Chancellor of the Exchequer adds to that office the office of First Lord of the Treasury, a new writ need not issue. That is not a conclusive and authoritative decision. When Mr. Gladstone added the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer to that of First Lord of the Treasury the gravest doubts were known to be entertained by the law officers, but before the matter could be decided Mr. Gladstone dissolved Parliament, and the question has remained undecided ever since.

Coming to the facts, my complaint about this Bill is that we have been kept in the dark about it. This House ought to be possessed of all information, not only in regard to law but with regard to the facts. This innocent looking Bill really contains a great deal of matter which the House must discuss. What are the facts as to the present Ministers of the Crown? I hold that the House has a right to be informed what is the *status* of right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. They may either be holding over under the statute of Anne or they may be acting as Ministers by direct appointment from the Crown. "Under which king, Bezonian?" Are Ministers now holding office by direct commission from King Edward VII., or are they the Ministers appointed by the late Queen Victoria, holding office by statutory title? Surely we have a right to know that before this Bill is given a Second Reading. There was one expression which fell from the Attorney General upon which I should like to have some explanation. He left it in doubt whether he considers what took place in regard to the First Lord of the Treasury as an acceptance of office or not. The case of the First Lord of the Treasury has been referred to, but that is the case with nearly all his colleagues. We were told by the Attorney General that on the 24th of January the First Lord of the Treasury took the oath of allegiance and the official oath.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I never said that.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The question was put by myself on this Bill across the Table, and he alluded to the oath taken on the demise of the late Queen. I asked what the oath was, and he said it was the oath of allegiance and the oath of office. Why were the First Lord of the Treasury and his colleagues sworn in their respective offices on 24th January? I submit that that was done in compliance with the Act 31 and 32 Vict., c. 72, which defines the oath of allegiance, and specifies the manner in which it is to be taken and the persons who are to take it. That Act provides that the Oath of Allegiance and the Official Oath should be tendered to and taken by each officer as soon as might be after the acceptance of office under the Crown. Is it conceivable that right hon. Gentlemen opposite went through a ceremony which they knew to be perfectly futile? Were they playing a merely useless and unnecessary part, or were they fulfilling a statutory duty? In a later section of the Act of 1868 it is declared that no person shall be compelled in respect of the same appointment to the same office to make oath more than once. I contend that the facts constitute a proved case of acceptance of office. What we want to get at is whether the Ministers who took the oath on 24th January did so in compliance with the section which had been referred to. If that is so, it is an acceptance of office since their election, and therefore the Ministers have vacated their seats in this House. Whether they have accumulated penalties or not is a matter to which I have given no attention. We are dealing now with Ministers of the Crown, and is this the reason why this Bill is made retrospective? If, on the other hand, Ministers are holding over on statutory terms, they are asking the House to relieve them of the necessity of seeking re-election. The law requiring the re-election of Ministers I hold to be absurd, but why do not the Government bring in a comprehensive Bill repealing the old law? That would have been statesmanlike.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That would be a very good Bill.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Then why not do it now?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear!

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Instead of that they have brought in a *privilegium* for themselves. I understand the rule to be, whenever any question of law or fact arises in connection with the vacating of seats, that a Committee should be appointed to deal with it. I do not know why that should not be done now. I am certain that before the Bill passes through Committee important Amendments will be necessary. I will not indicate them now, but they are many. I will only say this one word more in conclusion. I agree with what the hon. Member who has just spoken has said in regard to the manner in which this Bill has been introduced to the House. I think the House has not been treated with the respect and confidence to which it is entitled, and I am not sure that a very respectful attitude has been maintained towards the Crown. While not opposing the Bill, I content myself by declaring that its further passage will require the most anxious consideration, and that many Amendments will be necessary before it takes its place upon the Statute-book.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I entirely agree with the hon. Member for Dundee in his desire to see the law altered generally in regard to the vacation of seats, but I would remind him that this Bill deals merely incidentally with the vacating of seats, and is mainly concerned with the effect of the demise of the Crown upon the holding of offices under the Crown. Therefore it could hardly have been possible to introduce a general provision of that kind into this Bill. There is, however, a point on which I differ from the hon. Member, and that is as to the effect of the Act of 41 Geo. III., c. 52. I understand that it is the Act of Anne which is the law under which the Ministers of the Crown are holding office now, and under this Act holders of office are continued for six months; at the end of this period they need reappointment. The Act of Geo. III. was passed after the Union with Ireland, and provides that no person who was incapable of sitting in the Parliament of Great Britain or in the Parliament of Ireland should be capable of sitting in the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Then the Act proceeded to distinguish offices of profit, which became necessary, when you came to take over the Irish Government under the Act of Union, for there were offices held under the Crown directly, and there were offices held indirectly under the Crown under the Lord Lieutenant, acting as Viceroy or agent of the Crown. The Act provided that whether held directly under the Crown, or indirectly from the Lord Lieutenant, those offices when accepted should be followed by the vacating of seats in this House. That is the explanation of the Act 54 Geo. III., c. 16, to which the hon. Member for Dundee attaches so much importance. Ministers who held office under the Lord Lieutenant were under some disadvantage as compared with those who held office under the Crown. In the first place, when the Lord Lieutenant changed, they were not the servants of the new Lord Lieutenant. They did not enjoy the six months grace which the holders of office under the Crown enjoyed; and as, happily for the kingdom, the Lord Lieutenant changed more frequently than the Sovereign, they were frequently liable to vacate their seats, and it was necessary to do something to remedy this condition of things. That, I think, is the history of the distinction, to which so much weight has been given, between offices held under the Lord Lieutenant and offices held under the Crown. It was, as the preamble of the Act 54 Geo. III., c. 16, said, to "remove doubts," and not to make the distinction suggested by the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite. But it did not affect the law as to offices held directly of the Crown; for the Act 41 Geo. III., c. 52 left the Act of Anne wholly untouched.

Then we come back to what constitutes acceptance of office. I am quite prepared to grant to the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite that, where a Member of the House of Commons has no office, was out of office, and was appointed to an office under the Crown, a mere notification of willingness to accept amounts to acceptance, and involves the necessity for re-election. But, in the case of Ministers who are holding office, they are in office, are continued in office by the Act of Anne, and how can they accept what they have already got? The hon. and learned Gentleman said the House ought to be told whether, in the case of the First Lord of the Treasury, the patent had been made out, and whether the seals had been handed back and restored to the Secretaries of State. I think that if these things had taken place the *London Gazette* would certainly have informed him of the matters as to which he had inquired, and as it has not informed him, I think the hon. Member should assume that they have not taken place. I do not think it can be seriously contended that the taking of the oath of office means the acceptance of office. I should say that the taking of the official oath is a necessary incident to the appointment, but does not in itself constitute the acceptance of office, because the office has been accepted a long time before. Members of this House took the oath of allegiance to King Edward on the demise of the Crown, but it is not pretended that they received a fresh mandate from their constituents, or that their relations with their constituencies were in any way affected by this formality. I cannot help thinking that these great constitutional matters which have been laid before the House are somewhat illusory. The hon. and learned Gentleman has, I think, attached too much importance to the retrospective clause, on the assumption that it is meant to protect Ministers from some direful penalties that they have incurred, and has overlooked the fact that the clauses relate to cases of office held outside the King's dominions, and so not covered by the Act of Anne. I cannot think that the small boon which will be conferred upon the present Ministers of the Crown by saving them from the need of re-election next June is a substantial reason for rejecting the measure.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: In looking at this Bill, I am reminded that twenty years ago it was said of my hon. colleague the late Mr. Bradlaugh that Northampton was deprived of a share of its representation in this House because hon. Gentlemen on the opposite side of the House who were then in Parliament held that Mr. Bradlaugh could not, *fas aut nefas*, sit in the House. I object to the Bill being made retrospective. There are two points on which the hon. and learned Attorney General admits that it is retrospective, the first being that in respect to fines. No doubt, in the present disturbed condition of the finances of the country, it would be a good thing if the Chancellor of the Exchequer could pick up some unconsidered trifles of revenue, and I see no particular reason why, if these haphazard Ministerialists have rendered themselves liable to pay the Treasury considerable sums of money, they should be relieved from that responsibility. As a matter of fact, the Ministers of the Crown during the great war with France subscribed the greater part of their salaries to the public exchequer. I have not heard that the present Ministers are doing the same thing. Possibly this may be a convenient way of doing so. I do not wish to push this question of fines too far. If Ministers had come frankly forward and said: "We made a mistake, and are exceedingly sorry; we have rendered ourselves liable to heavy fines, and we ask the House to forgive us," we on this side of the House would have taken a favourable view of their demand, and would have been ready to forgive them. But they do not do so; and the Attorney General comes forward and says he does not consider they are liable to any fines. Now, I believe the Attorney General to be a highly honourable and upright man, and not willingly biassed either for or against himself; but I would point out that upon this matter of fines the men on the front bench are the men in the dock and not on the bench. After all, the Attorney General is human, and it is only the natural thing—although I do not intend for a moment to say that he would—that, when he is asked whether he and his friends should pay a sum of £100,000 to the Treasury, he should be a little biassed in his view of the law. I confess that I should myself, in similar circumstances, be equally biassed. But Ministers, instead of coming forward in this humble and contrite spirit before the House, come with a Bill by which they indirectly and insidiously try to get rid of their liability, implying at the same time that there is no such liability. Why on earth is this proviso inserted in the Bill, that "it shall have effect from the last demise of the Crown," if it is not to cover Ministers? Are they ready to agree to the Bill being passed without it? I do not believe they are; but I should have another objection to it if they were. Let them frankly come forward and ask for a remission of the fines, and, so far as I am concerned, I shall be ready to remit them. I am not a lawyer. The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down is not only an eminent lawyer but an eminent professor. In both capacities he spoke to the House. He professed the law, and what does the right hon. Gentleman say? He said:

"How can anybody"—in connection with this question of liability and fines—"accept an office which he has already got?" I can reply to that: "How can anybody be reappointed who is already appointed?" We on this side of the House, and even some on the other side, do not understand that doctrine. If you are appointed to a place you do not require to be reappointed. The Attorney General told us that you became appointed to a place by a seal or by an official oath, and the hon. and learned Member for the University of Oxford told us that it was by a sort of oath of allegiance; but the right hon. Gentleman forgets that Ministers had already taken the oath of allegiance in this House. Would that oath not have been taken if they had not been reappointed to their offices? Nobody can doubt that when a man is reappointed to an office he is appointed to that office, and if there is any liability in connection with that appointment he incurs that liability.

But there is something far more important than the fines. Even the Attorney General is inclined to agree with us that Ministers have vacated their seats owing to their having accepted these appointments. But this House has always been an elective body. Assuming that our contention is right, these gentlemen would remain in this House without being elected by anyone. Let me ask what it is that they demand? Is it that they claim for a majority of this House to co-opt a certain number of Members of their own party—men whom they please—to be Members of this House? It may be that they co-opt the Ministers; but they may co-opt the man in the street, or any one else! I stand to the doctrine that the only entrance to this House is the elective entrance. If Members have vacated their seats by some act of their own, or by the operation of the law, you cannot give them a seat in this House by any act of the House itself. They have to go back to their constituents, and have to be re-elected. That has been the law from time immemorial up till now. I do not think that a single case can be cited in which this system of insinuation or co-option of Members has been adopted by this House in regard to any Member. I do consider this a very serious question. I am not going into the whole question of the late General Election; but as a matter of fact that election was taken under most disadvantageous circumstances in regard to hon. Gentlemen on this side of the House. But if you add co-option—as you have got it in this Bill—I ask where is the franchise and where are the electors? They all disappear. It is one thing if the Attorney General or the First Lord of the Treasury fairly tell us that they have incurred these fines, and ask to be forgiven them; but if the Bill is to retain this proviso which gives the House the right to pass over the electors, and to choose Members by co-option, I cannot vote for it. As far as the future is concerned I rather agree that the Bill is a good one; but I strongly urge on this House that it should not take upon itself this right of co-option, which it has no power to do as an elected House.

Mr. WALLACE (Perth): I do not rise to take any part in the general discussion of the Bill, but I want to ask my hon. and learned friend the Attorney General one question. So far as the general object of the Bill is concerned the whole House is practically agreed. I am quite sure we all think that in regard to future appointments of Ministers it is most advisable that there should not be the necessity of re-election; but what I want to ask my hon. and learned friend is: Does he think that the Bill carries out the very object he seeks for? We are told this Bill is intended to indemnify certain Ministers of the Crown, if it be the fact that they have been reappointed and have incurred penalties. I do not say myself that that is the intention, but the result of the passing of the Bill will be to relieve them of the penalties they are said to have incurred. I ask my hon. and learned friend to look at his own Bill, and try to find anything in it to relieve Ministers who have been re-appointed, and who have incurred penalties, or to prevent those penalties being exacted from them. The only Clause which could affect that is Clause 2, which says, "This Act shall take effect as from the last demise of the Crown." That is to say, that by the passing of the Act those Ministers who have already been appointed shall not find it necessary to be re-appointed. But, if Ministers have been re-appointed, if they have incurred penalties for illegally sitting and voting in this House, there is nothing in the Bill to prevent an informer from suing these Ministers and obtaining the penalties. I know that my hon. and learned friend says that they have not incurred penalties, that they have not been re-appointed; but if they have not been re-appointed, and have not incurred penalties, the retrospective clause is absolutely unnecessary. My hon. friend and a very large number of those associated with him are of opinion that, in fact, these Ministers have been re-appointed, and that they have incurred penalties. Supposing that opinion is sound, what is there in the Bill to take away the penalties?

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University): The question put by the hon. and learned Gentleman who has just addressed the House really more concerns us than himself.

MR. WALLACE: My interest is for the honour of the whole House.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: Certainly. It is pleasant to find an hon. Member on the other side of the House, unlike some of those who preceded him, extremely anxious that, if Ministers have incurred these penalties, they should not have to pay them. The hon. Gentleman asked if we had considered the Bill. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have considered the Bill. No doubt an argument may be made—it has been made by several hon. Members—that Ministers were reappointed, and had incurred penalties by sitting and voting in the House. All I can say is that we are perfectly satisfied with the Bill, in the first place, and that no fines have been incurred at all. In the second place, we are satisfied that if fines or penalties have been incurred, this Bill relieves Ministers from those fines and penalties. If it be so, if we are satisfied of that, I think my hon. and learned friend may also be perfectly satisfied. The way the Bill would operate would be this. On the death of the Sovereign no re-election would be necessary, whether the appointment then made was a new appointment or a reappointment. As regards some of the observations made by hon. Members, I would like to remind the House that no evidence has been brought forward to show that any Minister has incurred any penalty. The argument that because a Minister has taken the oath of allegiance or the oath of office to the King, on the demise of the late Sovereign, that is a new appointment, is an absolutely absurd one. As regards the second proviso, which is most objected to, it has already been pointed out that that has been put into the Bill mainly with reference to protectorates and other portions of His Majesty's dominions which existing legislation does not provide for. No one who has spoken has pointed out any inconvenience that would result from the Bill. In fact, everyone, except an hon. Member from Ireland, has been in favour of the principle of the Bill. The Bill is one of very great convenience when you come to consider the large number of questions that may arise as to officers under the Crown who would require new commissions and new patents according to existing law. On the other hand, the House is almost unanimous on the absurdity of the present law in regard to re-election. I would remind hon. Members that the Bill, in that respect, affects not merely Ministers of the Crown, but many other Members of this House. Take the case of recorders. Is it to be said that a recorder, holding an office from the Crown—and an office very poorly paid—must within six months of the demise of the Crown go back to his constituents for re-election? I have no doubt many other questions might arise as to what really is an office under the Crown. The truth is that the Bill will be a very great relief, and will put an end to much inconvenience in regard to difficulties which have arisen on the demise of the Crown—difficulties which did not exist formerly under an entirely different state of facts. That being so, I appeal to the House without further delay to allow the Second Reading of the Bill. No doubt small questions of details may arise, but those can be settled in Committee.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.): I had not intended to intervene in this debate until the speech of the right hon. and learned Solicitor General, but he has so entirely closed his eyes to the views which have been generally indicated that I think the House should have an opportunity of considering the real position in which this Bill stands before asking us to give it a Second

Reading. No question has been raised in regard to the operation of those provisions of the Bill having reference to the future; but a very serious question has been raised by several hon. Members with reference to the retrospective character of some of these provisions. My right hon. and learned friend says that the position in which Ministers are placed was never contemplated when this Bill was drafted, because it was perfectly clear to them that no penalties had been incurred. But he is also prepared to argue that the Bill is so fortunately drawn that, if penalties have been incurred, it is quite sufficient to give these right hon. Gentlemen a complete answer to any claim to exact a penalty. I congratulate my right hon. friend and his colleagues upon having accidentally framed a Bill to deal with an emergency which they never contemplated.

Now, I beg to call attention to an argument which I submit refutes entirely the contention of my right hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General. It is not really open to serious controversy that there has been by every Minister of the Crown who has been sworn into his present office a taking of place within the meaning of the statute of Anne. It is conceded that the Ministers of the Crown are the servants of the Sovereign. They are appointed by the Sovereign and dismissed by the Sovereign, and the right hon. Gentleman has admitted that in common law the demise of the Crown puts an end to their office. That being so, every Minister of the Crown ceased to occupy the position of servant of the Crown on the death of Her late Majesty, and, quite apart from the statute, it would have been necessary for new appointments to be made by His Majesty upon succeeding to the Throne. Now, how far does this statute come into play? There is one section in the statute of Anne which extends for a period of six months from the death of the Sovereign all appointments which the Sovereign made, and, as the right hon. Gentleman pointed out, it was to meet the probable absence of George III. from the kingdom on the demise of the Crown that the statute was passed. By reason of that statute, some time during six months after the demise of the Crown reappointments must take place. The Ministers must derive their authority to act by means of a new appointment from the new Sovereign who at present rules the realm. I put it to the right hon. Gentleman the Solicitor General, is it seriously contended that when Her Majesty's Ministers were sworn into their present offices two days after the death of Her late Majesty they went through a ceremony which was of no importance? Is it seriously contended that the oaths were taken and gazetted and the filling of the offices gazetted without its being in any way necessary under the statute? It was a step they were bound to take, and they took it at the earliest possible moment. Either they elected to enter into the service of the present Sovereign when their oaths were taken or they intended at the end of six months to repeat the ceremony over again, and, therefore, it was either an acceptance of office under the statute of Anne or it was an idle ceremony which has to be repeated. It is not open to doubt what the object was with which these oaths were taken. There was no obligation to gazette the mere subscription of the oath of allegiance, but there was an obligation to gazette the oath of allegiance and office, and it was intended to be formally recorded, and it was intended to show that they derived the same appointment from the Sovereign which they had held under his predecessor. In the *Gazette* of January 25th there is this entry—

> "This day the Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour was by His Majesty's commands sworn First Lord of the Treasury."

If that is not taking office from His Majesty with His Majesty's consent, I am at a loss to understand how office can be taken. If that is so, what is the position of the Ministers of the Crown who are also Members of this House? They are clearly within the exact language of the section. If any of them are actually Members of this House, and have accepted an office of profit under the Crown, and their acceptance operates, their seats are vacated as if they had died. They are under the obligation to consider themselves dead. It is open to their constituents to re-elect them, and their duty undoubtedly is to seek re-election.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Not if they are dead.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON: Constructively dead—politically dead—and they can be politically resuscitated by re-election. That is our point. I quite agree that the matter is by no means perfectly clear, and if the Solicitor General had not been so confident about it I should not have thought it worth while to discuss the subject. The Attorney General admitted that the matter was involved and obscure, and that it was doubtful what the obligation is. But there is a later statute—21st and 22nd of Victoria—which contemplates the case of an appointment being made during the recess, when the House is not sitting. If the House was sitting the House would be the proper authority to decide, but during the recess, and these appointments were made when the House was not sitting, there is a provision that the person who accepts the appointment is to give notice to the Speaker, who can, if he thinks the matter clear, at once issue a writ; but if he thinks it doubtful he can refuse to issue the writ, and leave Parliament to deal with the difficulty. I submit that the duty of His Majesty's Ministers was to notify the Speaker, and then when the House met we should have had to consider, not whether we should grant an indemnity in this matter, because that we should have been quite prepared to do, but the far more important question of whether these Ministers should or should not take the views of their constituencies upon their taking office. I think that is a most important point, and involves a most important popular right. I think their constituencies are entitled to say whether or not in their opinion those representing them should accept office, and I should be very sorry to see that popular right abolished. It is important in regard to the particular case to consider whether Ministers should not undergo re-election, and there are strong grounds why we regard the re-election as politically desirable. The only method by which a constituency may express its opinion directly on the issue involved in a particular appointment is by the re-election or the non-re-election of the Minister appointed, and when we recollect how the conduct of Ministers has been criticised by their own supporters upon the reconstruction of the Cabinet, it would be most instructive to have the opinion of the constituencies upon the matter. So far as the retroactive action of this Bill is concerned, it was obviously introduced to save the Ministers from a difficulty into which they involved themselves owing to their own want of foresight. I think the result of the Bill will be that Ministers will be saved the obvious duty of submitting themselves for re-election, and before the House is asked to assent to a measure of that kind they ought fully to understand what is the nature of the concession which they are invited to grant.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I must express my surprise at the line adopted by the hon. and learned Gentleman who has just sat down. I understand the hon. and learned Gentleman to say that an illegal act has been committed by Ministers, and if that is so, the question is obviously one for a court of law. As I understand what he just said, the hon. and learned Gentleman says the Ministers in question ought to have come down to the House at the beginning of the session and asked the House whether they should submit themselves for re-election or not. A more unconstitutional course I never heard suggested in this House.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON: You will find it in the special Act I quoted.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: I remember a case of this kind—the case of Mr. Gladstone in 1873. I was one of the Members who took it upon themselves—I took it upon myself to acquaint the Speaker with the fact that the right hon. William Ewart Gladstone had since his election as the Member for Greenwich accepted two patent offices, which I named. The view held by Lord Cairns, given to me privately, was that the best thing would be to allow matters to work out for themselves, and to let the Government as best they could get out of the mess in which they were placed; but I, on the contrary, though I own it was presumptuous in a young Member, as I then was, to set up my own opinion against such high authority, said that as soon as the House assembled it was my intention to call the Speaker's attention to the presence of a distinguished stranger on the floor of the House, and to ask him to direct him to withdraw while the matter was being discussed. The reason I took that course was that I strongly objected to this obsolete system of re-election. It seems not only to fetter the choice of the Crown, but it is extremely inconvenient to the course of public business. But that is not before the House now. I wished to draw attention to the inconvenience of the practice, and I thought perhaps a Prime Minister being fined £500 for every division which he had taken part in, or, at any rate, being obliged to leave the House to avoid penalties, would be the best way to afford an object lesson which might lead to the whole system in question being reconsidered. Although this Bill does not go far enough in my opinion, it might be subjected to alteration in Committee. Why does not this Bill deal with the anomalous situation which will be created if a demise of the Crown takes place when a General Election is in full swing? Legal minds are greatly exercised as to what would happen if a demise of the Crown took place while the country was waiting for the latest of the elections to be concluded in Orkney and Shetland, for instance, or in fact at any moment before the date fixed in the Proclamation of Dissolution for the meeting of the new Parliament. There is not a word about that. Any Bill entitled the Demise of the Crown Bill ought to comprehend all these questions. Do I understand the Attorney General to give the opinion that I am right in saying that if the demise of the Crown occurred while a General Election was in progress all the elections would have to take place again?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Yes.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: That is the thing which the House thought to get rid of by the Reform Bill of 1867. That is a very serious thing, and I think this Bill does not go far enough if it perpetuates such a condition of affairs, and will therefore require to be amended.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) asked, if no illegality had been committed and no penalty incurred, why should the time of the House be occupied in passing a Bill which was not necessary? Both the law officers of the Crown had said there was nothing in the Bill, and if that were so there could be no object in introducing it. To his mind the arguments of the hon. and learned Gentlemen conclusively showed that there had been illegalities committed. The Government for the last two or three years had been carried on in a slipshod, haphazard manner, which constituted a real danger to the State. Only the other day, when introducing a most revolutionary measure to alter the proceedings of the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House had forgotten that there was an Opposition. He had previously, when taking office on the demise of the Crown, forgotten the law, and now the Government in the middle of the session came down with a Bill to give relief to the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues in the Ministry for the fines which they had incurred. Much might be said as to the necessity of abolishing re-election upon taking office under the Crown, but such a matter ought not to be raised in this way. This was an indemnification Bill, and the House ought therefore to hesitate before passing it. The absent-mindedness of the Government had become proverbial, and he should vote against the Bill.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) thought that the true criticism of the Bill had been uttered by the right hon. Member for Thanet. The Bill did not go far enough. Other matters more nearly concerning the House than those which were embodied in the Bill had been left out of it. If the demise of the Crown took place after Parliament had been elected, but before it was constituted, hon. Members would be in a precarious condition. It was a great pity that the Government in this Bill had not provided for all the contingencies which might arise in the future.

*MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said the hon. Member must recollect that the promoters of the Bill looked at the matter from the point of view of their own interests; those who opposed it looked at it from the point of view of the public interest. He was old enough to believe that there was much virtue in the old doctrine of the vacation of seats on appointments to office. It was a great safeguard, and he believed that a constituency ought to have a right of judgment when a man chosen as an independent member so far altered his position as to take paid office. It was a deterrent in cases of Members elected professing one political faith afterwards accepting office under the Crown at the hands of Ministers belonging to the opposite party. But the circumstance that a new Monarch had succeeded to the throne was no reason for making a change in the general politics of the country or the relation of the constituency to its Member, nor was it on principle a reason why a Member holding office on accepting re-appointment should be required to go to the constituency for re-election. But the law was otherwise. He agreed with those who said that if in this case penalties had been incurred the House would have no difficulty in saying that they had been incurred by a slip on the part of Ministers, and that they ought to be indemnified. There had been a general misconception on this subject, and those who were vigilant on the Opposition side of the House did not raise the question. But as to the seats, it was a serious thing to say that a man should be elected to Parliament otherwise than by the voice of the constituency. It must be remembered that Ministers, if the Bill was necessary, had actually vacated their seats, and were not members of the House at all now. This was a Bill to turn them into members by legislation. Members of Parliament ought all to entertain great jealousy with reference to the methods by which a man might enter and remain in this House. He was sorry Ministers had brought forward the Bill in its present form. They were told this was to be mainly a financial session. This was the only Bill, apart from money Bills, which the Government were pressing to a Second Reading before Easter. Credit was taken for the circumstance that there was to be no Ministerial legislation. Yet there were pressing matters in which the people of this country were interested. There was the oath connected with the Accession, which had shocked the feelings of majorities and minorities alike. There was the Bill prohibiting the sale of drink to young children. There were other pressing questions. But these measures Ministers did not help forward. As the debate had proceeded he was reminded of the lines of a scion of a high Tory family, himself a Tory politician—

> "Let laws and learning, art and commerce die
> But spare, oh spare our old nobility."

So he might say to-night—

> Let Kings curse Catholics, children drink and die,
> But save, oh save our hybrid Ministry.

Now the Attorney General was careful; he only said he did not think there were penalties, and that he did not think the seats were affected. He also thought that there was nothing in the taking of the oath of office again. What the hon. and learned Gentleman ought to tell them plainly was whether those who had been reappointed Ministers held their seats or not. Plain men, inside and outside the House, would believe after the speech of the Attorney General that it was not necessary to go over this farrago of statutes or to enter into an ingenious discussion of all these clauses to find out whether the seats were vacated or not. To him it seemed clear that Ministers had accepted office under the King, and so vacated their seats, and that they felt this to be the case. Hence this Bill. If not, let Ministers rely on the law as it is, so far as their own seats were concerned. He should be willing to waive penalties. But there was so much mischief in retrospective laws, especially retrospective laws by which they proposed to make men Members of this House otherwise than by election by free constituencies, that, except under pressure of obvious and inexorable necessity, the House ought not to agree to such a step. If Ministers wanted to make the House of Commons a machine for the creation of Members of Parliament, let them put it plain and straight on the Statute-book. If they were not affected, if they were members still, they did not want the Bill; if they were affected and had vacated their seats, let them say so, and take the consequences honestly.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I quite agree with the remarks that have fallen from my hon. and learned friend, and I I think we on these benches have reason to complain of the way in which this Bill has been put before Parliament. In the first instance, I think it is a Bill involving great constitutional changes, and ought never to have been introduced in a speech under the ten minutes limit. The Bill curtails some of the privileges of the House. I know that this ten minute rule was brought forward mainly in regard to Irish measures, and that it worked very injuriously as far as we are concerned. The hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Oxford University alluded earlier in the afternoon to some remarks that fell from the hon. Member for North Donegal, and said the speech was more remarkable for the vigour of its language than its lucidity. I think we on these benches may return the compliment. At any rate, so far as his speech was concerned it did not leave us very much wiser than we were. With regard to the manner in which this Bill was introduced, the hon. and learned Attorney General spoke so that we could not hear what he said.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: That is not my fault.

Mr. POWER: I imagined it was. I do not think there was much discussion going on at the time. I think if he inquires, the hon. and learned Gentleman will find that his remarks did not reach the press gallery, and they were not reported in any portion of the press I have had the advantage of seeing. It should not have been introduced under the ten minutes limit rule. We take exception to the Second Reading of the Bill being put down on a date just on the eve of the House adjourning for the holidays, for recollect this is a matter in which Ireland is very largely interested. It may not appear to be so, but so it is. I have heard remarks from both sides of the House that this system of re-election should be abolished because it means nothing. We in Ireland would be very sorry to see that system abolished, and for very potent reasons. If you go back in the history of your own country you will find that in former times no person holding a position under the Crown could hold a seat in Parliament, so great was the corruption. That was altered later on, and a salutary rule was introduced that if a Member should take office it was necessary to seek re-election and have his conduct ratified by the electors who sent him there previously. The Government two or three years ago deviated from this course with respect to an Irish office, and I do not think their action in that matter reflected credit on them. I think their action then proved the wisdom of the rule that people who have been appointed to office should seek re-election. They appointed Mr. Plunkett to a certain office, and brought in a clause in the Bill by which it was unnecessary for that Gentleman to appeal to his constituents. He got his position without appealing to them, and the first time the constituency of South Dublin had an opportunity of airing their views on this and other matters they put him aside and sent another able representative to these benches. However it may work in English public life, certainly the system has not worked well in Dublin, and it would be objectionable if this safeguard were removed. For these reasons we are opposed to the Bill, and I know that if it had been put down earlier you would have had more Irish Members taking part in the debate.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 180; Noes, 82. [Division List No. 117.]

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, T. R. (Tr H'mlets, S Geo.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fd. Dixon

Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt.Hn.SirWilliamHart

Emmott, Alfred

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue

Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.JE(Elgin,&Nairn)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble

Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,James(Staffords.N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare,Ed.Brodie(Hampstead
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Hope,JF(Sheffield,Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil

Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick

Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W (Salop)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees

Lambton, Hon.FrederickWm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long,RtHnWalter (Bristol,S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther,Rt.Hon.James(Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred

Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE (Wigt'n
Middlemore,JohnThrogm'rton
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan,DavidJ.(W'lth'mst'w
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath

Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Newnes, Sir George
Nicol, Donald Ninian

O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George

Price, Robert John
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy

Quilter, Sir Cuthbert

Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.

Sackville,Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, Wm. Edw. T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew
Smith,HC(North'mb,Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.

Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Valentia, Viscount

Wallace, Robert
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Taunt'n
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.HnE.R.(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley,Rt.Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, william Randal

Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delaney, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hobhouse,C. E. H.(Bristol, E.
Holland, William Henry

Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork

O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'raryM'd
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.
O'Malley, William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. O'Doherty and Mr. Labouchere.

MR. BROADHURST: I notice that the right hon. Gentleman Mr. Arthur Balfour and other Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench voted in the late division, and I want to know what are my privileges with regard to the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry into the legality of their votes or otherwise.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That matter cannot be raised now. It would not be possible at this stage for the hon. Member to move for a Committee of Inquiry.

MR. BROADHURST: Would it be in order for me to move that the votes so recorded be disallowed?

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think that motion would come within the rules of the House.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put from the Chair and declared carried by the Deputy Speaker, amid cries of "The Noes have it" from the Nationalist Members.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Perhaps, Sir, you will allow me, on a point of order, to call your attention to the fact, which was manifest to everybody in the House, that a large number of Members challenged a division. I myself was not in my place, but I was standing just by your chair, and I distinctly heard plenty of Members challenge a division.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House had just decided the question.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The challenge I heard was a challenge each time you put the question.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House had just decided that the Bill should be now read a second time.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: But a division was challenged.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question "That the word 'now' stand part of the question was decided.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The House had just voted on the question "That the word 'now' stand part of the question." You proceeded then to put the question with the word "now" in it—that is, "That the Bill be now read a second time"; and that question was challenged.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not understand the hon. Members meant to challenge the question.

SEVERAL NATIONALIST MEMBERS: Certainly.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question has generally been taken as a formal motion, but if hon. Members insist upon their right I will repeat the question.

SEVERAL NATIONALIST MEMBERS: Certainly.

Main Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 155; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 118.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George

Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount

Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S Geo.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Emmott, Alfred

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue

Godson, Sir Augustus F.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Hy. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble

Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, J. (Staffords, N. W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsd.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir William H.

Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees

Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttleton, Hon Alfred

Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry

O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy

Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridg
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, H C (Northumb. Tynesd.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Valentia, Viscount

Wallace, Robert
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Ambrose, Robert

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-

Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.

Dunn, Sir William

Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher

Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.

Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John

Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael

Leamy, Edmund
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.

MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Murphy, J.

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William

O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William

Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Petrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal

Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)

Ure, Alexander

Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)

Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. O'Doherty.

Bill read a second time and committed for Thursday, 18th April.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Resolution proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): There is a new clause in this Bill which raises a question that ought, perhaps, to be mentioned on the Second Reading of the measure with a view to eliciting from the Government their intentions, and calling upon the Secretary of State to make, before we reach that clause in Committee, a statement of those intentions—if such a statement cannot be made here to-night. The House may remember that when attention has been called during the present and the last session to certain surrenders in South Africa, and to inquiries which have been held into those matters. Members on each side of the House have spoken in favour of assimilating the procedure in the Army to that in the Navy, and, roughly speaking, laying down the principle that in all cases of surrender there should be a trial by court-martial, just as in the Navy there is a trial by court-martial in every case in which a ship is lost. There have been pointed out by the Government obvious reasons which make it difficult or impossible to follow exactly in Army matters the procedure in the Navy, but I understand the First Lord of the Treasury, in an answer which he gave, promised consideration of how far the practice in the Army might be modified in this respect. The only change made in the Bill before us is to insert a new subsection—

> "Rules as to procedure.—All Courts of Inquiry may provide for evidence being taken on oath";

and other words to the same effect.

The first question I should like to ask the Government is whether they are under the impression that those words apply to the courts as to which there has been most doubt and difference of opinion, which have been held during the present war. My own impression is that this legislation will not apply to courts of that description, and I will very briefly explain why I hold that view. The Army Act, which is amended and, as it were, brought into force for the year by this Bill, gives the King and the Secretary of State for War the power to make provisions in respect to the assembly and procedure of courts of inquiry, and this new clause extends that power in a particular point. It might at first sight be supposed that it dealt with what have been called "Courts of Inquiry" held during the present war, but I do not think it does, and I am prepared to assert that it would not apply to the courts which have attracted most public attention. In the latest edition of the Queen's Regulations—or, as I suppose we must now call them, the "King's Regulations"—there are the rules laid down under the powers given by the Army Act. These rules deal with certain courts of inquiry which have been held in some cases during the present war. There are three kinds described: Courts of inquiry into cases of deserters, courts of inquiry into loss of stores, and a class of courts of inquiry which has attracted some attention in connection with recent unfortunate events in South Africa. By paragraph 537 of the King's Regulations—

> "a court of inquiry may be assembled by any officer in command to assist him in arriving at a correct conclusion upon any subject on which it may be expedient for him to be thoroughly informed."

Such a court of inquiry is one which must be held under the King's Regulations in certain cases—the cases which I have named, and also in the case of the recovery of persons who have been taken prisoner by the enemy. That court—

> "may be required to give an opinion on any point not involving the conduct of any officer or soldier."

The object of these courts in the cases of prisoners recovered is stated in paragraph 544—

> "In order to prevent any officer or soldier who may have been taken prisoner of war through his own neglect or misconduct from obtaining any advantage under the Royal Warrant for pay, etc., a court of inquiry is, as soon as possible after his return, to be assembled by the general officer commanding to investigate the circumstances in which the capture took place . . . . . (and to) record an opinion as to whether the officer or soldier was taken prisoner by reason of the chances of war, or through neglect or misconduct on his own part. The proceedings will be forwarded to the War Office."

To those courts of inquiry the change will undoubtedly apply. Many such courts have been held in South Africa. In some cases, however, statutory courts have been held on officers upon whose cases non-statutory courts had previously been held, and to those non-statutory courts the change will not apply. The courts are what are known as prerogative courts of inquiry, and in the great authority on this subject, "Military and Martial Law," by Clode, in the chapter on "Courts of Inquiry," it is perfectly clearly laid down that there are these two classes of courts—prerogative and statutory. The principle which Clode lays down is that—

> "the Army can only be governed by absolute power being vested in the Crown; which, when occasion requires it, must be exercised summarily, and, may be, silently, against the status of officers and soldiers. Instant dismissal of individuals, or prompt disbandment of regiments without cause assigned, is an exercise of power which must be lodged somewhere, and by our Constitution it is confided to the Crown as the supreme power in the State. Out of this may arise—upon occasions felt by a conscientious Minister—the necessity of previous confidential inquiry before this power of annihilation is exercised, etc."

Then he goes on—

> "As the criminal law of the Army can only be put in force against an inferior by a superior officer, cases may arise in which the facts are not so patent, or the source of information so impartial, as to satisfy the latter officer that justice demands a court-martial trial upon the accused."

That is to say, these prerogative courts are considered by Clode to be the proper means of proceeding when the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief requires the advice of officers who have time to look into the facts as to whether he shall take what Clode calls "steps of annihilation"—that is, whether he shall recommend that the services of an officer be dispensed with, or that he be placed on half-pay, or whether he shall order a court-martial. In these cases the inquiry is to advise the General Officer Commanding, and any steps which are taken are taken not by the court of inquiry, but by the General Officer Commanding or the Secretary of State. These courts are unsworn to secrecy; they are not required to arraign the supposed culprit before them; they may take any course they may deem best suited to obtain information on which higher authority can safely act—

> "Their finding is, in fact, advice and information confidentially given to the Crown or general officer. . . . The ultimate use which is to be made of information thus obtained involves very different considerations. Before anyone is prejudiced by the results it would appear desirable, if not demanded by justice, that the substance of the charge be communicated, and an opportunity of explanations be afforded to him." (Clode, p. 199.)

I am quite prepared to believe that in many cases which may happen in war it is necessary to take immediate or summary steps, and I should support the military authorities or the Secretary of State in taking those steps, but before the House agrees to this change of law in connection with these courts it ought clearly to understand that the courts of inquiry in connection with which the most doubtful points have arisen in the present war are courts which will not be affected by the statutory change.

I have referred already to not the definite promise, but the suggestion thrown out by the Government that they may be prepared to change in some degree the King's Regulations upon this subject. The country has undoubtedly been profoundly moved by many acts showing lack of discipline as well as lack of training, incompetence, and a lack of military virtues in isolated cases during the present war. I think it is generally desired that all those cases of surrender should be investigated rapidly and completely. As to whether it is possible to apply courts-martial to all such cases, as many Members of the House appeared to wish in the course of a recent debate, I am quite prepared to learn from the Government that there are great differences between land and sea warfare, and it may be very difficult indeed to lay down the absolute principle that there shall be a court-martial in every case. Possibly it will be proposed to extend the principle of courts-martial to cover a larger number of cases than at present. If the Government wished to make a new crime of any kind, if the present definitions of misconduct are not sufficient, it would be necessary, of course, to deal with the matter, as far as courts-martial are concerned, by statute, because the military offences are specified in the present law. If that catalogue of offences is not accurate or complete, amendments ought undoubtedly to be introduced into this Bill in Committee to make it accurate and complete. In the catalogue of military offences the very first is one which I confess I think requires some modification. That offence is described in these words—

> "Shamefully abandon or deliver up any garrison, fortress, post, or guard committed to his charge,"

and the word "shamefully" again occurs in the course of the paragraph. It is a very difficult offence to prove against a British officer that he has shamefully abandoned a place committed to his charge, but there are cases in which undoubtedly the abandonment or the surrender of a post falls short of what any man would like to call a "shameful" abandonment, and yet ought to be visited by military punishment, and, I think, followed by court-martial. Certainly, in my opinion, the first paragraph requires amending by the omission of the word "shamefully," as the word renders a conviction most difficult, but there are general words in the military offences which, I confess, without straining them, seem to me to cover most of the cases which we think ought to be the subject of a regular inquiry. A paragraph says—

> "Knowingly does . . . any act calculated to imperil the success of His Majesty's forces or any part thoreof."

In the four cases of the surrender of isolated posts in the present war which have been alleged to have compromised the success of the main body I should have thought that those words were sufficient, and that those surrenders might have been dealt with by court-martial under paragraph 6, without the amendment of paragraph 1 by the omission of the word "shamefully." The other day we pressed one particular case in which the Secretary of State for War, in reference to a despatch laid upon the Table giving the finding of the inquiry into the Lindley case of Colonel Spragge, was asked, not unnaturally, I think, for the names of those who had compromised the success of the main party by showing the white flag alluded to in the despatch. I should imagine that, under paragraph 6, those who did so might be tried by court-martial.

But whether the existing list of military offences is sufficient or not, I think it is necessary to call the attention of the House to the fact that we require some further redemption of the virtual promise of the Government than is contained in this proposal giving power to administer the oath. The most difficult cases to deal with are cases, not of the commission of a military crime, but of incompetency. It is constantly necessary in war to remove men who, although very likely competent at one time, have ceased to be competent, or who, while competent in an inferior post, are not competent in a superior post to which they have gradually, by time, risen. Such cases are very difficult to deal with, because of the impossibility of describing the fault as a military crime. In the case of a loss of a ship in the Navy the circumstances are investigated as a matter of course, and trial by court-martial is not supposed to reflect in any way upon the personal character of the officer subjected to the charge. In the case of the Army there must undoubtedly be the power of summary dismissal for incompetency, if for no other fault, and I am quite willing to support the Secretary of State in exercising that power, even though it involves that which to lawyers may seem hardship. But I cannot help feeling that in some cases in South Africa the very fact that the law is not at all clear has led to a great deal of doubt and difference of opinion and difficulty on the part of many in supporting the War Office and the Commander-in-Chief in a course in which I personally think they ought to be supported. A writer who has considered these subjects as thoroughly as any man in the country has pointed out most clearly how necessary it is to remove for incompetence. He has pointed out that—

> "in a battalion, though it would be too much to say that the Commanding Officer is everything, it is the simple truth that everything depends upon him. His capacity is the limit beyond which progress is impossible. If he is incompetent the battalion is blighted, and there is no cure short of his removal."

That I fully admit, but the difficulty of removing without an inquiry, or the difficulty in some cases of holding an inquiry, or the question of the persons of whom the court of inquiry shall consist, it is not now the time for this House to consider in connection with the Bill before us. I think it would have been better for the Government frankly to tell the House that they would have to improve and amend the King's Regulations, to issue a new edition corrected by the lessons of the South African War. I am sure that any new version of the King's Regulations approved by Lord Roberts and the present military authorities would command the confidence of the House and the country. That there is confusion, and that a certain amount of discontent is produced by the confusion, I do not think anybody will deny; and although I am far from saying that in all cases you ought to hear an accused man in his own defence, although I fully admit it may be necessary not to do so, although I know the difficulties involved by the fact that an inquiry may compromise another man who has not been tried at all, yet I cannot but feel that the present necessity of holding two courts in the case of the same man, as has occurred in some instances, is a most painful one. It has been thought necessary in the present war to hold a prerogative court of inquiry upon a man, and, having placed him on half pay or declared that the Sovereign had no further need of his services as a result of the first inquiry, you have had, after his recovery from captivity, to hold a second or statutory court of inquiry into the same case. If the two courts had been the one a strong and the other a weak court, or if the two courts had taken different views, see what an opportunity would have been afforded for complaint in regard to the treatment of the officer concerned. Personally I think it would be better to have only one court of inquiry, and to make all courts of inquiry of the nature of the present prerogative court. Where you depart from that you should have a court-martial and resort to courts-martial rather more freely than you do at present. Whatever may be the views of the Government, I ask them, as soon as they can, to take us into their confidence, and I should say that this little clause deals with the matter unsatisfactorily unless they are prepared to announce a large Amendment of the King's Regulations at the same time.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present——

*Mr. URE (Linlithgowshire): I wish to direct the attention of the House to an Amendment of the Annual Army Bill, which is being proposed for the first time. The Secretary of State for War apparently desires that the procedure of courts of inquiry should be altered, or rather their powers enlarged, so as to give them liberty to take evidence on oath. Now, what is the reason for that change, made so late in the day? Courts of inquiry have been held from time immemorial without any inconvenience having been felt about their inability to take evidence on oath. I have had considerable experience of evidence taken not only on oath, but without oath; and I think the feeling of all those who have had similar experience is, that you do not really reach the truth with greater certainty because a witness has been put on oath than when his evidence is taken without it. Of course it is always difficult to ascertain the truth on a matter of fact, but that is not because witnesses are deliberately and willingly telling what is not true; but rather because their views of what has taken place are coloured by the impression of the moment, by conversations which have passed between them and those connected with the incident between the time when the incident occurred and the time when they were put in the witness box. Really there is not so much difficulty in getting men to tell the truth as in getting them to divest themselves of prejudiced feeling and passion. My hon. and learned friend the Lord Advocate knows very well that, whether witnesses are on oath or not, they are very inaccurate in giving evidence on matters of fact which occurred at a period distant from the date of inquiry; and when we have had opportunity of dispensing with the oath, we have both been in the habit of using the liberty. It is perfectly true that some inconvenience has occasionally arisen when gentlemen from distant parts of the Western Hebrides have claimed the privilege of being examined through an interpreter, and in that way have sometimes succeeded in soncealing the truth rather than in elucidating the facts of the case. Except in these rare and somewhat exceptional circumstances, the Lord Advocate will agree with me, that we do not attach any more importance to the statement of a man who has taken the oath than to the statement of a man who has not taken the oath. I shall, of course, be told that it is impossible to prosecute for perjury unless witnesses are put on oath. I agree; but really that is a weapon which we all know is very rarely put in force, because it is exceedingly difficult to prove perjury. As far as my reading and observation are concerned, England is not in any different position from Scotland in that regard. The right hon. Baronet who preceded me in this debate says that the real difficulty in these courts of inquiry is to ascertain the truth on questions of competency or incompetency. Well, questions of competency or incompetency are always necessarily a matter of opinion, and, therefore, on such questions it is immaterial whether you put a man on oath or not in order to get from him his genuine views on the matter. You often say to a man that all you desire is to get from him his opinion on a certain state of facts that may have passed under his observation. Under these circumstances we are entitled to ask the Secretary of State for War what has occurred to lead him to propose this material change in the procedure of courts of inquiry. Personally, I am very much averse to an oath being introduced in inquiries of this kind. I am told that men do not attach the same weight and importance to an oath as they did in early times; and much more is that the case where the English form of procedure is adopted, and where the oath is taken in a very perfunctory fashion, very different, indeed from that in Scotland where there is much greater solemnity connected with the administration of the oath. But even in Scotland that greater solemnity does not seem to impress witnesses so much now as it did formerly. I have no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman will be ready to give us his reasons for making this material change in the procedure of the courts of inquiry.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince): In old days when a prisoner of war returned to his regiment he was necessarily tried for desertion. This exposed the circumstances of his capture. Now the circumstances are very different. In the South African War a large number of prisoners had been taken, and I can quite conceive that the most convenient way to deal with them would be to bring them before a court of inquiry, and to put the witnesses on oath. I maintain that the oath is administered in the Army in a very different manner from what it is in the civil courts, and undoubtedly soldiers do attach more solemnity and value to the oath than civilians. The right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean spoke about the surrenders in South Africa, and referred to the word "shameful" in the Mutiny Act. If the commander of a fortress surrendered it without sustaining an attack upon the breach the surrender was regarded as shameful. I do not know that any precise line can be drawn as to whether these surrenders on hill-tops in South Africa are or are not shameful. I would hesitate very much to express any strong opinion on the subject until I have heard the views of officers who have served in that country. My impression is, that in these days of magazine rifles the strain on the nerves of soldiers is much greater than at any former period; and we should know the views of soldiers who have been through the campaign before we can express an opinion on the matter of any real value. In regard to general inquiries into the conduct of officers, I should advise the Secretary for War to be very careful. War is very far from being an exact science; and I think it is very desirable to leave it entirely in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief to hold or to avoid these inquiries which so many people are anxious to bring about. I feel assured that they may do our Army immense harm and a great deal of injustice to many officers.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I do not desire to detain the House at any length, because my right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean has dealt with the question exhaustively and in a very lucid way. But in regard to these courts of inquiry, those of us who have had experience of them know that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they are held with reference to the loss of equipment, or stores, or matters of comparatively small importance. In those cases there is no necessity for an oath; in fact, an oath may complicate proceedings and prevent those engaged in the court of inquiry from ascertaining the truth. There is much in what the hon. and gallant Member said with reference to soldiers and the oath. I admit that more importance is attached to the oath by soldiers than by civilians. The part which is of importance now is that these courts of inquiry are about to be employed for the purpose of eliciting information with reference to matters of supreme moment to individuals and to the country at large, and as to matters that affect the discipline of the Army. My right hon. friend referred to what Clode says on the matter, namely, that to enable an officer who holds a court of inquiry to take evidence on oath gives him the opportunity of gaining full possession of all the points in the case. Now, I should suggest that a distinction should be drawn between courts of inquiry for the purpose of investigating the loss of stores and equipment, or minor matters, and those courts which are held for the purpose of ascertaining whether an officer, non-commissioned officer, or man has properly performed his duty. The question which was raised with reference to the word "shameful" in the Army Act leads me to say that it would be advisable, seeing the number of cases that are likely to occur in South Africa, if the Secretary of State for War were to take some steps to alter the Act so that he might be able more effectually to deal with that question. I come now to the point as to whether it would not be advisable to have more courts-martial. Of course, prerogative courts we must always have; but I would ask whether it would not be advisable to so alter the King's Regulations that there would be power, in the event of certain facts being brought to the knowledge of the officer commanding, to call a court-martial rather than a court of inquiry. There is always a difference between naval and military matters; but there are some cases where nearly the same circumstances may occur to a military officer as to the naval officer of a ship; as, for instance, when an entire unit, or company, or troop of cavalry is taken captive without any great show of fight. If the Secretary for War can see his way to promise such an alteration in the King's Regulations as would enable these cases to be investigated by a court of inquiry, or, if necessary, by the court-martial, I feel certain it would give great satisfaction throughout the Service.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The point raised by the right hon. Gentleman is undoubtedly a novel one. This change in the Army (Annual) Bill has been introduced, not merely from a desire which I really have to improve the procedure, but also to meet to some extent views which have been expressed in the House. I do not think it needs great deliberation to discover the necessity for the change. There are two classes of inquiry in the Army—one inquiry is by courts-martial and the other by courts of inquiry. The inquiry by courts-martial has not been very frequently in practice in the British Army, and it has often been very difficult to frame a charge which would come under the various heads of the Army Act. The theory in regard to courts-martial in the Army has been opposed to that held in the Navy.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Hear, hear. That is perfectly true.

MR. BRODRICK: In dealing with this court-martial question I would like to see that done away with. I think that an inquiry on oath, and to some extent of a public nature, is very often advantageous to the officer—it must tend either to convict him or to clear him—and there are a large number of cases in which it is desirable, in the public interest, that the officer should be brought before a court-martial and given a complete acquittal or should be convicted. But, undoubtedly, the present courts of inquiry require strengthening. The right hon. Gentleman has made various observations with regard to the distinction between the various courts of inquiry now held, but what is really important is to consider in what circumstances the courts of inquiry would be improved by the present Bill. Under Clause 52 of the Army Act you have courts of inquiry which deal simply with cases of absence without leave or desertion, with regard to which witnesses can be put upon oath. But in much more important cases brought before courts of inquiry the witnesses cannot be put upon oath, and the Government desire that they should be put upon oath whenever it seems to the Commander-in-Chief that it is absolutely necessary and will add to the force of the inquiry. I think it is desirable from two points of view. First of all, it makes the witnesses much more careful about what they say, and, secondly, it gives much more importance to the finding of the court, or that of the Commander-in-Chief. At present you must have a court of inquiry for the purpose of elucidating the facts. But, as the right hon. Gentleman has pointed out, there is often great difficulty in holding the courts. That is so, and I am bound to say that, as between courts-martial and courts of inquiry, cases may occur in which it is necessary to exercise authority without either a court-martial or a court of inquiry. In cases of that kind, in which the conduct of an officer was such that the Commander-in-Chief was satisfied that he could not employ him again in the field, the military authorities should have power to dispense with the officer's services. I am sure the House will support me when I say that the life of every soldier is absolutely at the mercy of the officer under whom he is placed, and it is necessary that the military authorities should have full power in this respect. Where you can form courts of inquiry in these cases, I think it is very desirable that in the great majority of instances the Commander-in-Chief should put the witnesses on oath. I do not like the plan of holding two inquiries; but, of course, there are cases in which at a court of inquiry held on one officer *prima facie* evidence is produced in regard to another officer who might have been taken prisoner and therefore, was not available at the time. In these circumstances it may be necessary to hold a second court of inquiry, subject to the reservation which I have made—the right of the military authorities to decline to continue to employ an officer in whom they have lost confidence. One point seems quite clear, and that is the desirability of making these courts of inquiry of a more formal character. Each successive speaker has dwelt on the necessity of giving an officer a fair trial. But it may not be possible in every case to frame a charge on which the finding of a court-martial can be based. Take the case of a charge of "shamefully abandoning or delivering up a garrison." Those words may either be strengthened or weakened. There may be also cases which do not come under Sub-section 6 of the clause, more especially cases in which officers have raised the white flag. My own feeling is that whether an officer is justified or not in raising the white flag, he should not be deemed guilty of cowardice and brought to a court-martial, if, finding himself in a desperate situation with his force terribly reduced, he finds it necessary to surrender, after earning praise for the gallantry of his defence.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: Hear, hear.

MR. BRODRICK: I do not think it ought to be considered a reproach to an officer that in circumstances of surrender of that kind he has been brought to a court-martial. I will take care to make the inquiry more formal, to avoid a multiplication of inquiries, and to give to each officer the fullest opportunity possible of being heard in his own defence. I will just add one word as to the length of time that should elapse before the inquiry is held. I think in many cases it would be the most humane and considerate course to hold the inquiry as soon as possible rather than to allow an officer to remain for many months under the suggestions that are made in the case of surrenders which cannot often be disproved. I am against keeping officers for any lengthened period in a condition of suspended animation, and therefore I think the inquiries should be made as quickly as possible; and I say so the more because when an officer is dealt with after a long period of suspended animation, it might inflict far greater injury on him in his social position. I hope the House will now give a Second Reading to the Bill. I believe the clauses in the Bill are admirably calculated to carry out the intentions expressed by the Government in deference to the opinions expressed on both sides of the House, and will produce a better administration of the military law.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) desired to elicit some statement with regard to the King's Regulations in reference to persons being taken prisoners of war. As the regulations now stood, there must be two inquiries, and some alterations would have to be made in order to obtain a single inquiry. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give some reassurance upon that point. He quite agreed that all these matters were more necessary now than in times past, and of necessity there would be an increase in the number of inquiries. The power the right hon. Gentleman took under the clause of the new Act, would be useful in shortening the period of suspended animation to which the right hon. Gentleman referred, although the process might not be so simple as it at first appeared, because there would still be two classes of inquiry. He thought the House ought to have some assurance as to whether he intended to alter the King's Regulations.

MR. BRODRICK: Yes, certainly. The Regulations will be altered in accordance with the views I have expressed.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that in the opinion of a great many Members it would be better to substitute courts-martial for the courts of inquiry, because in that case the officer had an opportunity of presenting his case to the court; whereas in a court of inquiry there was no safeguard that a man might not be convicted of making a mistake, or of a dereliction of duty, and have his whole career ruined without having an opportunity of defending himself, or answering the charge against him in any way. It had always been the practice in the Navy to hold courts-martial, and he thought as a general rule the same practice should be adopted in the Army, although, no doubt, in some cases a court of inquiry was necessary. It was often said that every officer had a right to demand a court-martial, but that was only partially true; in many cases there was that right, but in many there was not. If an officer was dismissed the Army for neglect of duty after the holding of a court of inquiry, he had no power to demand a court-martial. He hoped the promise to alter the King's Regulations would be carried out on a somewhat wider scale than the mere making of the courts of inquiry courts where evidence could be taken.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Thursday, 18th April.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) said there were one or two points to which he desired to draw the attention of the President of the Local Government Board. He did not complain of the Bill itself, which was a very useful measure, but there seemed to be a tendency in its provisions to confer on the Local Government Board an undue and, as he ventured to think, an unnecessary power of interference with the discretion of county councils with regard to isolation hospitals. Under the original Act of 1893 county councils could create an isolation hospital district, and large numbers had been created, and hospitals built either by means of a subsidy from the county council or with the assistance of local rates, and under the Act of 1893, unless exception was taken to the action of the county council by the local authority, no interference by the Local Government Board was possible; but by the new Act, where county councils took over from some other local authority a hospital for dealing with infectious diseases, the Local Government Board could step in and interfere with the action of the county council. Again, where the building itself and the site were obtained out of the annual rates, the Local Government Board could not interfere with the action of the county council; but where the site was provided and the hospital built out of loans, the Local Government Board could hold an inquiry and oppose the scheme if it thought fit; but in the case where the hospital was built out of the rates all interference was prevented. If this Bill was allowed to become law that would no longer be the case, as the Local Government Board under Clause 2 would have authority to interfere with the action of the county council in that respect. It might be said that these were very small matters, but he felt that they might only be the prelude to greater demands of a more onerous character. Another point he desired to draw attention to was that what was possible under the present Act was not to be permitted under the revised Act in the future. There ought to be fuller explanation of the reasons why the county councils were to be so cramped in their operations. There had been no complaint from local authorities that the county councils had unjustly abused the freedom of the Act of 1893. The action of the county councils with regard to isolation hospitals had been first to create a hospital district and its committee, and then to erect the hospital for the district, and so with regard to transference a new building would be acquired from the local authority directly by the hospital committee. In practice it was the hospital committee which acquired the site and rated the district, and the committee was as corporate a body as the county council itself, and the case might very well be remitted to the committee direct, instead of being transferred to the county council. Why not also put into the Bill a power by which the hospital committee could rent from the local authority suitable temporary premises during the time the permanent building was being erected? He also called attention to the ambiguity of the phrasing of some portions of the Bill.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I quite recognise the courteous spirit in which the hon. Gentleman has criticised this measure, although I disagree with him in every particular. The hon. Gentleman complains of the powers we have taken under Clause 4; all we do by Clause 4 is to obtain power to amend the claim of any local authority. The hon. Gentleman is mistaken if he thinks this is an attempt on the part of the Local Government Board to extend their powers. We are bringing in the Bill at the request of the county councils in order to remove the difficulties under which they labour. There is no desire on the part of the Department to extend their control over the local authorities, and still less over the county councils. On the contrary the sole object of this Bill is to enable the county councils to do, in regard to local bodies who have exercised the powers under the Act of 1875, precisely the same thing as they are able to do in regard to local authorities under the Act of 1893. I think the hon. Member in his criticism of Sub-section 4 of Clause 1 overlooked the principal Act under which hospital committees are created—that is to say, under the Act of 1893 hospital committees can be constituted to which control of these hospitals can be given. I do not think that any alarm is felt in regard to the extended control of the Local Government Board over the county councils. At all events this Bill as originally introduced in this House was a private Bill, and it has only been slightly altered. Its object is to enable county councils to do work in the direction of providing isolation hospitals which they cannot do at the present time. On the subject of hospitals for infectious diseases, I know that some people think they are not altogether desirable, but in my opinion there is nothing more desirable than that local authorities should have every facility for the provision of hospitals where infectious diseases can be suitably supervised. Under the Act of 1875 it is impossible for local authorities to transfer them to the county councils or to receive relief in respect of their maintenance. Under the Act of 1893 if they have provided these hospitals the county councils can contribute towards their maintenance, and I agree with the County Councils Association that it is very hard that local authorities who have done the work under the Act of 1875 should be in a worse position than those who have done the work under the Act of 1893, and the present Bill will enable them, without any undue restrictions, to treat the local authorities who have provided these hospitals under the Act of 1875 in the same way as they treat them under the Act of 1893. The Bill is promoted really in the interest of the local authorities, and it is heartily supported by the County Councils Association. I hope the House will pass the Bill.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I think the object of this Bill is very good, and it is one that becomes increasingly important as our population increases. The fact is these isolation hospitals become more and more necessary as the population grows denser. The means of communication have become vastly easier, and the possibility of the spread of infectious diseases thereby is multiplied a hundred-fold. It is necessary, therefore, in all these districts under the county councils that there should be powers to create isolation hospitals. That is, I think everybody will admit, almost a truism in the interest of public health. The history of this Hospitals Bill is a little peculiar. I remember the introduction of it, and in 1893 I had several conversations about it. The Bill was passed in a form which has proved to be a little unworkable. One of the great difficulties has been where a local authority had under the Act of 1875 established a hospital for this purpose, maintained it, and done its duty in that respect, that local authority had no chance of coming under the Isolation Hospitals Act, but was subject to this injustice that, although paying for its own hospital, it was liable to be rated by the Isolation Hospitals Committee for supporting other hospitals. Thus a district which had done its duty itself was penalised by having to support the hospital in a neighbouring district. That caused a good deal of dissatisfaction and difficulty in carrying out the Act of 1893, and that is one of the chief difficulties this Bill seeks to remove. By removing difficulties we hope the Bill will add to the number of isolation hospitals in different parts of the country; but while I wish the Bill all success, I am bound to say that there has been, but may be again in this House, some opposition to it from some of the non-county boroughs. They look with some jealousy on the Bill, and think that the powers transferred to the County Councils may be in some way injurious to them. We may have in the course of the Committee stage to consider not only the Amendments my hon. friend has very well put before the House, but we may have to consider other Amendments which strike more seriously at the Bill as now drawn. I think myself the criticisms of the Bill have some substance in them in several particulars. It is a pity, I think, that in a Bill of this kind, which has now the authority of the Local Government Board, means were not taken to give more authority to the county councils. I myself view with some apprehension the tendency that exists everywhere to give more and more work to the Local Government Board. The Local Government Board has already more work than it can do, and I do not like these appeals and references and methods of tying up local authorities at every step in their work by references to the Local Government Board, and the necessity of requiring the sanction of that board to be given to such a small affair as the taking over of a small hospital of a rural district. I think all these matters ought to be settled more and more by the county councils, for they are as competent to settle them as the Local Government Board. If we delegate more and more power to the local authorities we shall relieve the Local Government Board of an immense amount of detail work it could well do without, increase the strength and dignity of the local governing bodies in the counties, and get the business done with much greater expedition than at present. I think my hon. friend the Member for East Bristol made a useful suggestion when he said that it would be better that the county council in creating its district committees should form its district before taking over the hospital, because very often the taking over of the hospital in the first instance may create good deal of friction and jealousy. If you form your district and get the hospital in it willingly, then I think you will have less friction in carrying out the work effectively throughout. My hon. friend has expressed a fear with reference to Clause 5, which may have a good deal of substance in it. I know that the urban districts would not like to be under the control of the rural districts. The parish councils are in many cases good governing bodies, of stronger energy and more activity than the rural district councils, and I should like to see them also in this Bill rather strengthened than subordinated to the councils of the rural districts in which they exist. These are points which can well be discussed in Committee, and I think the Bill will make an Act which at present is comparatively inoperative, more useful. I hope the House will give the measure a Second Reading.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan said he had taken considerable interest in what was understood as the original Act. Some of the matters in the present Bill would be most conveniently disposed of at the Committee stage. He had been largely responsible in connection with education in boarding schools. One of his great difficulties in the management of these schools was the prevalence of infectious diseases. He had the honour to be on the governing body of a school which was now almost incapacitated by an attack of infantile disease — of measles. He believed that the same had been the case a few months since at the great school of Eton. This question did not affect one class of the community only, but all classes. He believed many of these diseases might be almost extinguished by proper precautions and by isolation, and he welcomed every well-considered proposal for the mitigation of this great evil; he might venture to describe it as a scourge. He hoped that without further delay, at this stage at least, the Bill would receive the full sanction of the House.

*MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek) said that in his own county of Staffordshire, as far back as 1893, they had desired to divide the county into districts, but had found that, owing to the absence of the powers proposed to be given by this Bill, they were unable to take over the existing hospitals. They had been anxious to bring into one comprehensive scheme the hospitals already established by the Act of 1875, but had been unable to do so, and therefore his noble friend Lord Lichfield, in the other House, had brought forward a Bill to carry out that purpose. Now the Government had made it their own, and he hoped there was a good chance that the matter would be satisfactorily carried out. He would make this one appeal to the Government, that the Bill should be sent to a Grand Committee, so that it might be expeditiously dealt with and then brought on for Third Reading. It was a most useful measure, and would be most satisfactory to the county council of Staffordshire—the body that first started the matter.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) asked for an explanation of the provisions of Clause 5. He said there were in the counties a considerable number of boroughs which had already provided isolation hospitals, and were anxious to make terms with the counties with the view to the hospitals being managed by joint boards.

MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said Clause 5 had simply been inserted to obviate a difficulty which had arisen in connection with the operation of the law as provided by previous Acts.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) said that as the public desire for isolation hospitals had grown it was found impossible to make use of those which were established in advance of public opinion. That was the main cause of this Bill. It enabled these hospitals to be transferred on fair and equitable terms.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston) said he was glad the Bill made an attempt to meet the difficulty with respect to rating. He hoped the Local Government Board would see their way to develop this system and deal fairly with the rating of all districts.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

SUPPLY [29TH MARCH].

Resolutions reported.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,023,100, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Works, Buildings, and Repairs, at Home and Abroad, including the cost of Superintendence, Purchase of Sites, Grants in Aid, and other charges connected therewith, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £359,500, be granted to His Majesty; to defray the Expense of various Miscellaneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £790,900, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Half Pay, Reserved, and Retired Pay, to Officers of the Navy and Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £340,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Civil Pensions and Gratuities, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £219,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Medical Services, including the cost of Medical Establishments at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

6. "That a sum not exceeding, £16,200 be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Martial Law, including the cost of Naval Prisons at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £100,600, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of Educational Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £65,800, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Scientific Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £119,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £218,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Sundry Miscellaneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,485,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospitals, and the In-Pensioners thereof; of Out-Pensions; of the Maintenance of Lunatics for whom Pensions are not drawn; and of Gratuities awarded in Commutation and in lieu of Pensions, of Rewards for Meritorious Services; of Victoria Cross Pensions; and of Pensions, etc., to the Widows and Children of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £188,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances and Gratuities, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Resolutions agreed to.

CREMATION BILL [Lords].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: This is a Bill which has already passed through another place. It is purely permissive in its character, and I believe there is no objection on the part of the Home Office to its being passed into law. The measure proposes to give to the burial authority the power to erect a crematorium for the use of the locality. In certain places they have this power under local Acts, and in some cases individuals have obtained the power. This Bill simply gives permission to local authorities when there is a demand for this method of disposing of the dead to erect suitable apparatus for the purpose. It also gives the public the further advantage that any such crematorium should be erected only with the sanction of the Local Government Board to the plans, while the general arrangements and regulations have to be approved by the Home Office. Every precaution will, therefore, be taken that the thing is done decently and in order. Certain powers are given as to fees, and certain penalties are imposed as to false declarations or certificates of an improper character. I need hardly say that there is on the part of sanitary authorities a very strong desire that this permissive power should be given to local authorities, especially in large and populous districts, where in many cases this method would be more sanitary than the present old-fashioned style of burial. The Bill carries with it no power to interfere with the customs of any locality, but it gives the locality, if it desires it, the opportunity of adopting a more scientific, and in some respects a more healthy, method of disposing of the dead. On sanitary grounds, as a measure likely to be of benefit to the public health, and also as one which is carefully safeguarded, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. TOMLINSON complained that the Bill had come on very unexpectedly, and Members had not had an opportunity of studying its provisions. It had been stated that the Home Office approved generally of the principle. If that was so, the House was entitled to hear the views of the Home Secretary upon the Bill, as to how far it would be effectual in its purpose, and generally as to its desirability. A few years ago such a Bill would have met with a great deal of hostile criticism. Public opinion had no doubt very much changed, but there were still a large number of people who retained a considerable amount of aversion to cremation. A Bill dealing with so important a matter as the disposal of the dead ought to be very carefully considered, and he hoped an assurance would be given that the prejudices of those opposed to cremation were to be properly dealt with.

MR. RITCHIE: The House is not now engaged upon the consideration of the details of this Bill, but so far as the principle is concerned the Home Office, generally speaking, raise no objection. Although the Bill has undoubtedly come on unexpectedly, I do not think that is a sufficient reason why, if the general principle of the Bill is one which should be approved, the Second Reading should not be assented to. There is no doubt that at one time, and not very long ago, cremation was looked upon with a considerable amount of suspicion, not only with regard to the process itself, but also as to whether proper precautions were taken against an abuse of what might otherwise be a sound and proper principle. On the general question no doubt public opinion has considerably advanced of late years, and I do not think the House will require me to go beyond the general principle to-night. The provisions of the Bill will have to be very carefully looked into in Committee, in order to see that proper safeguards against abuse are provided. With that reservation, I do not propose to offer any opposition to the Second Reading.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell) thought that although the object of the Bill was in many ways a good one, it was open to many objections. Many crimes had been discovered by reason of the fact that buried bodies could be exhumed and *post-mortem* examinations take place. Under the Bill the sanction of the Local Government Board was required, but no mention was made of the precautions against abuse which the Local Government Board would enforce. The House ought to have some idea as to what was in the minds of the promoters of the measure in that respect.

SIR WALTER FOSTER pointed out that the Local Government Board would have control only of the plans; the arrangements as to rules, regulations, and precautions would be under the control of the Home Office.

MR. BANBURY could not see why two Departments should be concerned, and in Committee he would certainly move that one or the other, he did not mind which, should be omitted. Subsection 2 of Clause 5 showed that the promoters were really rather afraid of the step they were taking, because it contemplated not only people doing that which they ought not to do in burning privately human remains, but also that they would make false declarations and representations. If the Second Reading of the Bill was assented to it was absolutely necessary that measures should be taken in Committee to provide that the whole framework of the Bill should be thoroughly considered, and that the operation of the measure should come under one office only.

Question put, and agreed to; Bill read a second time.

SIR WALTER FOSTER moved that the Bill should go to the Grand Committee on Law. He had no doubt that by that Committee the points referred to by previous speakers would receive careful attention.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) objected to the proposal, and expressed the hope that the Bill would be considered in Committee of the Whole House. The hon. Member now proposed that the Bill should be sent to a Grand Committee, but if it were sent upstairs the result would be that it would have precedence over every other private Member's Bill passed during the session. That would be an unfair advantage. Several other useful measures had passed their Second Reading, and they would have to take their chance in Committee of the Whole House. It was said that the present Bill was non-contentious. If that were so, and the hon. Gentleman put it down for Committee of the Whole House, it would no doubt pass.

MR. BANBURY said he did not quite agree with his hon. friend, because he was opposed to some of the measures which his hon. friend wished to have precedence. Therefore he would be rather inclined to support the motion of the hon. Gentleman. He was, however, of opinion that the Bill, having come on unexpectedly, ought not to be sent to a Grand Committee. There were many clauses in it which, although apparently non-contentious, required a great deal of investigation, and he thought, therefore, it ought to be dealt with in Committee of the Whole House. Although he was not anxious to give his hon. friend any advantage with regard to the other measures to which he had referred, still, under the circumstances, he considered that the Bill should remain in Committee of the Whole House.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) said he had a great sympathy with his hon. friend the Member for Basingstoke in the painful position in which he found himself, but would, however, support the motion that the Bill be sent to a Grand Committee, because in his opinion it was impossible to get any private Member's Bill 'through which had to be discussed in detail in the House itself. He thought it should be the rule, and not the exception, that private Members' Bills should be sent to a Grand Committee as a matter of course. In that way the details of the measures would be carefully considered. At present hon. Members had to choose between two alternatives, one to pass a Bill without proper criticism, and the other to subject it to such minute criticism as to prevent it becoming law. He hoped the present Bill would be carefully considered by a Grand Committee.

MR. TOMLINSON said he hoped the Bill would be referred to a Committee of the Whole House. They should endeavour to ascertain whether the Bill was one which, when Grand Committees were set up, it was the intention of Parliament to refer to them. He did not suppose that even the hon. Gentleman opposite would suggest that the Bill should be sent to the Grand Committee on Trade. There was no element in the Bill which would justify that, except that cemeteries were sometimes owned by trading companies. But the Bill was too serious a matter to be dealt with in that way. He was in the House when the Standing Committees were set up, and the idea then was that Bills having reference to the Board of Trade should be sent to the Grand Committee on Trade, and that Bills affecting changes in the law should be sent to the Grand Committee on Law. It was quite evident that the Bill concerned two different Departments. There was no technical question involved, and he thought the House itself ought to lay down the regulations which would govern such an important development. On grounds of principle the Bill should not be sent to a Grand Committee.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said he was perfectly prepared to agree to the principle of the Bill, but he was not prepared to permit it to be passed without full discussion in the House. The measure contained several points of considerable importance, and it manifestly took the House by surprise. As an instance of that he would refer to the attitude of the Home Secretary. He had never seen a right hon. Gentleman who had a fence to jump he was so little acquainted with. The right hon. Gentleman had had no chance of making himself acquainted with the Bill, and he manifestly was not prepared to discuss its details. He would remind the House that this would be the first Bill sent to a Grand Committee during the session, and that it would take precedence therefore of all the other Bills which the House had discussed at considerable length. He would join in an appeal to the hon. Gentleman not to press his accidental Parliamentary advantage, but to allow the Bill to be considered in Committee of the Whole House.

MR. SETON-KARR (St. Helens) said he would not have intervened in the debate were it not for a remark which fell from his hon. friend the Member for East Somerset. His hon. friend advocated that the Bill should be sent to a Grand Committee. He thought the Bill did not come within the category of Bills which ought to be sent upstairs. As far as he understood the principle on which Bills were sent to a Grand Committee, it was that only Bills were sent which had been fully debated in the House, and regarding which only questions of detail remained to be decided. He thought that a Bill could be sent upstairs with safety after having been fully discussed in the House. The Bill under consideration had, however, not been fully discussed. It came before the House as a surprise, and he, therefore, entirely disagreed with his hon. friend the Member for East Somerset, and hoped the Bill would be referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 137; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 119.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach, Rt. Hon Sir M H (Bristol)
Bell, Richard
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cogan, Denis J.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Emmott, Alfred
Ffrench, Peter
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Lambton, Hn. Fredk. William
Leamy, Edmund
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lundon, W.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moon, Edward Robt. Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Mara, James
Parkes, Ebenezer
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharpe
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Purvis, Robert
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (N'thants
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Shef'd
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wodehouse, Hn Armine (Essex
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Walter Foster and Mr. Henry Hobhouse.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Arehdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Duffy, William J.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nd)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Rbt. Wm.
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffi'ld, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Capt. J. (Faversham)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareh'm
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamst'w
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murphy, J.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)

Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln
Seton-Karr, Henry
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, HC (North'mb Tyneside
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath)
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Jeffreys and Col. Kenyon-Slaney.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (MARINERS' VOTES) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) in moving the Second Reading of this Bill said it had been before the House for several sessions, and he did not therefore think it necessary to occupy the time of the House in explaining it.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. BANBURY said he was sorry his hon. and gallant friend did not explain the Bill. The Bill was a franchise Bill and a Bill of very great importance, which ought not to be dismissed with two or three minutes conversation. Of course, every hon. Member sympathised very much with the men who served their country in the Royal Navy, with men in the mercantile marine and with fishermen, and, when it was proposed to give them the right to exercise the franchise, everyone was delighted. But the question arose whether, in bringing forward a measure which might be just and right as far as seamen were concerned, it might not be doing an injustice to other people. It could not be contended that seamen were the only persons who were debarred by their profession or occupation from exercising the franchise at present. His hon. and gallant friend was himself a gallant seaman, and no doubt possessed the gallantry which most seamen had, but on the present occasion he allowed his heart to run away with his judgment. The proper course for his hon. and gallant friend would be not to proceed with the Second Reading of the Bill, but to endeavour to induce the Government to introduce a Bill which would have for its object to give facilities to exercise the franchise to every person who by his occupation was unable to record his vote at present. He appealed also for another class, namely, the soldier. Soldiers did their duty gallantly, and why should they be deprived of exercising the franchise? Did hon. Members object to soldiers exercising the franchise? He did not desire to detain the House, but he wished to point out that piecemeal legislation of this kind was not always right. It was very easy to introduce a Bill and to take credit for it, but what hon. Members should consider was the effect of the measure if it were passed. He should like for a moment to refer to Clause 3, which ran thus—

> "The voting paper shall be signed by the voter himself in the presence of a person by law authorised to administer oaths (in this Act called 'the commissioner'), but the commissioner shall have no right to inspect any part of the voting paper, except the part containing the voter's signature. As soon as the voting paper is signed it shall be folded up by the voter and placed in a sealed envelope or otherwise made secure from inspection."

That seemed to him a clumsy way of proceeding. Then who was the voter to mark the paper for? Supposing a seaman was going on a voyage, and that an election was to occur in five or six weeks, how was he to know who the candidates would be, and even if he did know the candidates who were to be nominated, how was he to know for which of them to vote? Again, he did not see anything in the Bill as to how long before an election the Act would have effect. Was it to be six weeks or two months? He regretted his hon. and gallant friend made such an extremely short speech, because there were many points in the Bill which required explanation. There was nothing so far as he could see in the Bill to show when a voter might begin to mark the paper. There were the names of several hon. Members on the back of the Bill, and he hoped that they would give the explanation that was required. In passing a franchise Bill the House ought really to know what it was doing, and he hoped some explanation of the Bill would be given.

MR. SETON-KARR said he should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that it was asked to pass a great deal of ill-considered legislation that evening. The Bills which were now being discussed had been preceded by a large number of Government measures, and an ordinary Member of the House looking at the Orders of the Day would not suppose for a moment that any of the Bills the House had been discussing could come on. He confessed he was unable to understand why the Government should have dropped so much of their business, and allowed those Bills to be discussed.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): The hon. Gentleman cannot have been in the House at question time, because the First Lord of the Treasury then announced that the Government did not intend to go beyond Report of Supply.

MR. SETON-KARR said he was in the House during a part of question time, but did not hear the statement referred to. At any rate, it was very short notice to give, and the fact remained that the Bills they were now discussing had come forward very unexpectedly. The main argument in favour of the Bill before the House was that it had been introduced by his hon. and gallant friend the Member for Great Yarmouth. That fact stood, no doubt, for its respectability, but he would point out to the House that his hon. and gallant friend did not condescend to offer a single word of explanation, having moved the Second Reading in a formal and perfunctory way. The Bill was a fair enough Bill, but some of its clauses required explanation, and before the House was asked to express an opinion on it some hon. Member whose name was on the back of the Bill should explain it. He hoped the House would hear something more about the Bill. He should also like to have an explanation from the Government as to why the Trout Fisheries Bill had been dropped.

*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to refer to that.

MR. SETON KARR said he would obey the ruling of the Chair, and in conclusion expressed the hope that the Bill before the House would be further explained.

MR. PARKER SMITH said he was surprised that his hon. friend the Member for Rotherhithe, whose name was on the back of the Bill, was not in his place to explain such a long-expected and eagerly-awaited measure. He was also surprised that His Majesty's Government had not given the House their views on the measure. He considered it would be practically impossible to decide such a measure without having a clear and full explanation of the views of His Majesty's Government, dealing as it did with the franchise, of which the House of Commons had always been extremely jealous. Many points contained in the Bill had been mentioned by his hon. friends, but they had not yet been answered. Hon. Members sympathised, no doubt, with the desire of sailors to make their voice heard at the polls, but there were many other classes of His Majesty's subjects who were equally deserving as sailors in the Navy or the Mercantile Marine or fishermen, but who were not in a position to vote. How was the House going to draw a distinction between, for instance, men in the Naval Brigade in South Africa and the soldiers serving beside them? It would be a very serious danger to the discipline of His Majesty's forces if sailors could taunt soldiers with being superior because they had been able to sign voting papers long before they knew what the issues at an election would be, or perhaps the character of the candidates, or had any idea of how the successful candidate would act in Parliament. That might be a sound principle, but, at any rate, it was a principle that had not yet been acknowledged, and if the House were to accept it at all, he thought it should be carried a great deal further. He did not think it should be limited to sailors only. It would be convenient to many others. Many persons were now called upon to travel 500 miles to record their votes.

Why should they not be able to record their votes in a manner similar to that provided in the Bill? Supposing a voter in London had also a vote in Scotland—why should he be put to the trouble of travelling 500 miles to vote? Why should he not be allowed to put his voting paper into an envelope and send it down? He did not know whether the principle of the Bill was going to be accepted. He was quite sure it ought not to be accepted without further explanation from the supporters of the Bill, and more especially an explanation from the Government. His hon. and gallant friend the Member for Great Yarmouth introduced the Bill with great brevity, but he did not know whether it was fair to measure his hon. and gallant friend's sense of the gravity of the Bill, as compared with other questions in which he was interested, by the relative length of his speech in introducing the Bill, and the length of the speeches he delivered on other subjects. He did not think it was fair that such an important question should be brought before the House without being adequately explained.

Mr. TOMLINSON said he agreed with his hon. friend who had just sat down that more light should be thrown on the Bill. The measure was one of very great importance. It made a very great change in the present system of recording votes, and the House had had really no explanation of its provisions from any of its supporters. He himself was very much in favour of anything which would give the persons concerned an opportunity of recording their votes, and he thought that every effort should be made to secure that result. But was there any practical machinery in the Bill to effect that object? That was what the supporters of the Bill should have explained to the House. After the experience the House had had with reference to franchise Bills it had a right to demand to know the views of the Government. As there was no sign of any representative of the Government intending to address the House, he would move, "That the debate be now adjourned."

*Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER, being of opinion that the motion was an abuse of the rules of the House, declined to propose the Question thereupon to the House.

Question put, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 150; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 120.)

AYES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Acland-HoodCapt.SirAlex.F
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Broadhurst, Henry
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasg'w
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Ffrench, Peter
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy,HonEdwardAlgernon
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon,HnJ.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Gretton, John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, Jame Grimble
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Holland, William Henry
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrights'de
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard,Capt.J(KentFaversh.
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hn. Fredk. William
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH.(HantsFareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginadJ.(Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)

Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, David J. (Waltham'w)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C (North'mb, Tyneside
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wodehouse, Hon. A. (Essex)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir John Colomb and Mr. Price.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Balfour, Rt Hon. G. W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bullard, Sir Harry
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cremer William Randal
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Goschen, Hn. Geo. Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Jefferys, Arthur Frederick
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
More, Rbt. Jas. (Shropshire)
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert. Torrens
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Hn. M. W. Stalybridge)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Sullivan, Donal
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E R. (Bath)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Banbury and Mr. Parker Smith.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

MR. JEFFREYS said he would again protest against a Bill which had come before the House by accident, and which had not been adequately discussed, being sent to a Grand Committee. The majority of the Members of the House had had no opportunity of examining the provisions of the proposed measure, and he could only say that it was an abuse of the forms of the House to send such a Bill upstairs. The Grand Committees were principally intended for measures that had been thoroughly discussed on their Second Reading. The measure before the House was of great importance and ought to be thoroughly discussed, and he protested against the forms of the House being abused by sending a Bill under such circumstances to the Grand Committee on Law.

*MR. RITCHIE: I hope the House will not send this Bill to a Grand Committee. It is quite true, as my hon. friend has just said, that this Bill is of very considerable importance. I do not propose to discuss any of its provisions, but I may be allowed to point out that it is a Bill which does undoubtedly belong to the category of Reform Bills, because it practically enfranchises—not so many people as some would imagine—but still a certain number of persons, while it leaves alone a very large number of persons who are equally entitled to the franchise. The Bill has not been adequately discussed on Second Reading, and I think it would be rather a blow at the principle of sending Bills to the Grand Committees, if a Bill of this great importance, after having been spoken to for an exceedingly short time, should be taken out of the hands of the House. I am quite sure the House would do wrong by sending a Bill which has not been at all adequately discussed to a Grand Committee, and I hope therefore it will not consent to the motion.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 75; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 121.)

AYES.

Abraham, William(Cork,N.E.
Allen, Chas.P.(Glouc.,Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cullinan, J
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gordon,Maj.E.-(T'werH'ml'ts
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'uth
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Higginbottom, S. W.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.,Fareh'm
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lundon, W.
Macartney,RtHn.W.G.Ellis'n
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Majendie, James A. H.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Morgan,Dav.J (Walthamstow
Morris, Hon. Martin HenryF.
Murphy, J.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Malley, William
Randles, John S.
Ready, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tyneside
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Vincent,Col.SirCEH(Sheffield
Warner,Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney
White,Patrick (Meath,North)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir John Colomb and Mr. Price.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W.(Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, VCW(Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cremer, William Randal
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edwd. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Goschen, Hon.George Joachim
Greene,SirEW(B'ryS'Edm'nds
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hayne,Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Henderson, Alexander
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon,Frederick Wm.
Lawson, John Graut
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morton,ArthurH.A(Deptford)
Murray,Rt HnAGraham(Bute
Murray,Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Bobertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Seely, CharlesHilton(Lincoln)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson,Wm.Edw.Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Jeffreys and Lord Alwyne Compton.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House for Thursday, 18th April.

House adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 2nd April, 1901.

The House met at Two of the clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GRAVESEND GAS BILL—NEATH HARBOUR BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 39, 129, and 230 be suspended, and that the time for depositing Petitions and Memorials against Private Bills, or against any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, and for depositing duplicates of any Documents relating to any Bill to confirm any Provisional Order or Provisional Certificate, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

NEW STANDING ORDER (PETITIONS AGAINST RIVER CONSERVANCY BILLS).

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith) said he had to ask the House to amend the Standing Orders on a point which was very strongly brought under the notice of hon. Members in connection with the Wolverhampton Water Bill,† notably by the speech of the hon. Member for North Shropshire. The effect of the proposed new Standing Order would be that any landowner or conservancy body charged with the maintenance of the channel of a river, and with the duty of seeing that water continued to flow down a particular course, would be entitled, on obtaining the consent of the Court of Referees, to put in an appearance against any Bill that proposed to interfere with any underground water, as was the case in the Wolverhampton Bill. In that scheme the Corporation proposed to sink a number of deep wells, the result of which it was alleged would have been to have taken water from a very large district. None of the occupiers of that district would under the rules of the House have been able to appear against the Bill. It seemed to him that that was unjust, and therefore, with the consent of the members of the Court of Referees, he had drafted this Standing Order.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the following be a new Standing Order to follow Standing Order 134C:—

134D. Ordered, Where any owner, lessee, or occupier, or where any conservancy or other authority charged with the control of river or other waters, petitions against a Bill alleging that under its provisions any water or water supply of which they may legally avail themselves will be diminished or injuriously affected, it shall be competent to the Referees on Private Bills, if they think fit, to admit the petitioners to be heard against the Bill or any part thereof.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he agreed that the Amendment was a desirable one, but he would like to know, if a town like Wolverhampton proposed to take water from a whole county, whether the county council, acting in the interests of the inhabitants, would be allowed to petition against the Bill, which affected their water-shed area.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: They have an absolute power already to appear without going before the Court of Referees.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicestershire): And would district councils have like powers?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I am not quite certain; I rather think they have already.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that as Chairman of the Canal Association he supported the new Standing Order, because he believed it would greatly assist in safeguarding our water communications.

Question put and agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Order be a Standing Order of the House.

DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

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† See preceding volume of *Debates*, p. 1280.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bilston, Buxton, Leicester (two), Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Neath, and Newton-in-Mackerfield, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Long.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bilston, Buxton, Leicester (two), Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Neath, and Newton-in-Mackerfield," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 140.]

LEATHERHEAD GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

GAS UNDERTAKINGS.

Return ordered, "relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings in the United Kingdom, other than those of Local Authorities, for the year ended the 31st day of December 1900 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 143, of Session 1900."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

GAS UNDERTAKINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return ordered, "relating to all authorised Gas Undertakings in the United Kingdom belonging to Local Authorities for the year ended the 25th day of March, 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 144, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS.

Copies ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2 Bill):"

"Of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill:"

"Of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill:"

"And, of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Dublin Corporation Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL.

Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Electric Lighting (London) Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Petitions from Woolwich, in favour of extension if re-enacted; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Seymour; Beighton; Waterloo Main; Dunnikier; Dysart; Oldham; Dennyloanhead; Banknock; Wharncliffe Silkstone; Hoyland Silkstone; Wath Main; Batley; Denby Grange; Wakefield Manor; Foxholes; Whitwood Mere; Netherton; Good Hope; Bowers (No. 3); Newland; Hightown; Clifton; Blackrod; Cadely Main; Roundwood; Heanor; Old Thorncliffe (No. 2); Loscoe; and Woolley Moor Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (YOUNG CHILDREN) (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Aberdeen and Dundee; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Holywell; Clayton; Heckmondwike; and Barrow-in-Furness; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition from Wimborne, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Beighton; Clifton; Seymour; Dunnikier; Dysart; Dennyloanhead; Banknock; Wharncliffe Silkstone; Wath Main; Batley (No. 1); Chickenley Heath; Soothill Wood; Newland; Bowers (No. 3); Good Hope; Netherton; Whitwood Mere; Foxholes; Denby Grange; East Cannock (Nos. 1, 2, and 3,); Cannock Old Coppice; Wyrley; Hightown Liversedge Loscoe; Cannock Chase (two); Great Britain; Leacroft; Cannock Chase (Nos. 2, 3, and 5); West Cannock; Brereton; Blackrod; Cadeby Main; Roundwood; Heanor; Kiveton Park; and Woolley Moor Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from St. Helens (two); Chichester; Sutton; Portsmouth; Bourne; Haslingden; Coedpoeth (three); Rhosymedre; Milborne Port; Chatham (four); Manchester (four); Hardwick; Gornal Wood; Mountain Ash; Billinghay (two); Nottingham; New Brompton; Kilmarnock; Dundee; Cefn Coed; and Poplar; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Birsay and Harray; Aberdeen; Lintrathen; Hawick; Stewarton; Burntisland; Dysart; Gallatown; Kirkcaldy; Dunblane and Lecroft; Crieff; and Edinburgh; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAWL VESSELS (PROSECUTIONS).

Return [presented 22nd March] to be printed. [No. 116.]

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Return presented, relative thereto [Ordered 7th March; *Mr. Henry Hobhouse*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 117.]

POLICE (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Forty-third Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, being for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889, (ORDNANCE).

Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. V. (Glasgow, No. 1) (Regulations for Degrees in Science in Agriculture) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 118.]

TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS).

Copy presented, of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COAL EXPORTS, ETC.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th February; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 119.]

RAILWAY, ETC., BILLS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st April; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 120.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Thames Conservancy.—General Report and Accounts of the Conservators for 1900 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 121.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATIONS.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state to the House what is the reference to the Committee or other body for inquiring into the conduct of the war, and the date or probable date that the inquiry will take place.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I think the hon. Gentleman put exactly the same question a week ago. I have nothing to add to the answer I then gave.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the question with reference to reference? I said nothing as to that in my previous question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be most irregular to answer a question as to the terms of the reference until the time for the appointment of the Committee is approaching.

REINFORCEMENTS DESPATCHED SINCE 1ST JANUARY.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give the numbers of drafts and reinforcements landed in South Africa since the 1st January.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The numbers landed in South Africa since 1st January are 1,052 officers and 20,306 non-commissioned officers and men; 720 officers and 21,580 men are still at sea.

REPORTED DEMAND BY LORD KITCHENER FOR FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Government has received from Lord Kitchener a demand for 30,000 more men, as well as regular monthly drafts.

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir.

MR. SCHWANN: Am I to understand that Lord Kitchener does not agree with the statement of *The Times* correspondent——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask whether instructions were sent to Lord Kitchener by the Government to guide him in the negotiations with General Botha prior to the interview at Middelburg, and whether they could be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. BRODRICK: I answered this question categorically yesterday.† The Government gave no definite instructions to Lord Kitchener before meeting General Botha, for the best of all reasons, that General Botha proposed to meet Lord Kitchener, and the Government were not in a position to know any of the proposals which General Botha might make. It was obviously impossible in these circumstances to instruct Lord Kitchener.

ALLEGED BRITISH RECRUITING IN GERMANY AND ITALY.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the number of the recent reinforcements sent to South Africa which were recruited on the Continent of Europe; whether the recruiting for the British Army in South Africa is still going on in Germany and Italy; and whether his attention has been called to the statement in the *Frankischer Kurier* newspaper, of Nuremberg, 14th March, respecting the recruiting by English agents in Germany and Southern Italy for the English Army in South Africa.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member drew my attention to an article in the newspaper mentioned. There is no foundation whatever for the statement made.

EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT—FIELD ALLOWANCES.

MR. HERMON-HODGE (Oxon, Henley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether field allowance has yet been granted to officers and men of the East Yorkshire Regiment serving with the 8th Division; and, if not, can he state on what grounds it has been withheld.

MR. BRODRICK: This question arises, I think, from a statement made in this House by the hon. Member for Tonbridge on the authority of a paragraph in *The Times*. I am glad to have opportunity of contradicting the statement.

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† See page 333.

Men are never granted field allowance, but I have myself seen the receipts of the various officers for the allowances in question.

ARMY REFORM—THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS.

MR. PIRIE: May I ask whether the House will be enabled to discuss any matter of detail on the resolution dealing with Army reform in the same way as it would be able to discuss the statement of the Secretary for War?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The understanding was that time should be given outside the Estimates for discussing fully the general principles of my right hon. friend's scheme. That will be adequately carried out by the resolution put on the Paper.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF RECRUITING'S REPORT.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Annual Report of the Inspector General of Recruiting has been submitted to the Secretary of State, and when it will be circulated.

MR. BRODRICK: The Report has not yet been submitted; I, however, hope to receive it shortly.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE; Will it be circulated before the debate on the Army Reorganisation resolution?

MR. BRODRICK: I hope so.

VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY ARMAMENTS.

MR. HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W. R. Rotherham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that in the Tokio Museum of Arms there is now on view an Armstrong R.B.L. gun as a curiosity in the way of ancient and obsolete weapons, and whether, seeing that this is the gun with which our Volunteer artillery in many districts is at present armed, he will say when it will be replaced by a more modern weapon.

MR. BRODRICK: I have no information relating to this museum. As I have told the House on several occasions, the Volunteer artillery will be rearmed with more modern guns.

ATTESTATION OF RECRUITS—AGE REGULATIONS.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that the oath of allegiance is the only oath taken by the recruit on attestation, and in view of the fact that it has nothing to do with the question of his age, if he can explain what is the oath taken by the recruit which is held by the authorities as sufficient for reckoning his true age for Army service; and can he state what are the obstacles which prevent a system being adopted which would ensure punishment on conviction for any false statement as to age on the part of the recruit.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): On attestation the recruit signs a solemn declaration that the answers he has made to the various questions put are true. This declaration is signed also by a witness. As a man's actual age is held not to be a matter within his personal knowledge, it is not considered possible to take proceedings against him for a false answer.

MR. PIRIE: But the noble Lord in a former answer said the age given by a recruit on oath was held to be the true age for army purposes.

LORD STANLEY: I unfortunately used the word "oath" instead of "solemn declaration."

MR. PIRIE: Is the noble Lord aware that while a recruit may be punished for false answers, the question of age is not one of them?

[No answer was given.]

CAVALRY COMMISSIONS—PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to adhere to the regulations at present in force with regard to the limits of weight and height of candidates for commissions in cavalry regiments, and whether special consideration can be given to candidates who have proved their fitness by service in the Militia or otherwise.

LORD STANLEY: The physical standards for the cavalry are under consideration.

PIMLICO ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT—OVERTIME PAY.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he can state whether the petition of the employees in the Royal Army Clothing Department, Pimlico, dealing with the question of the stoppage of extra pay for overtime, has been received and considered; and what decision, if any, has been arrived at.

LORD STANLEY: Petitions from the employees in the Royal Army Clothing Department have been received and are under consideration.

CHANGES IN THE KING'S REGULATIONS.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, before reaching Clause 4 in the Army (Annual) Bill in Committee, he will be prepared to state generally the nature of the proposed changes in the King's Regulations.

MR. BRODRICK: I have stated the general nature of these changes. I cannot undertake to give all the details.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I am under the impression that the right hon. Gentleman gave us no information on the point.

H.M.S. "THUNDERER"—GUN DISABLEMENT.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state what was the nature of the accident to the guns of H.M.S. "Thunderer," as revealed by the recent inquiry.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): Whilst at target practice with half charges and Palliser shells, two of the 10-inch breech-loading guns in the "Thunderer" were temporarily disabled by a portion of the shells being jammed in the bore of the gun, and so preventing loading being carried out. The accident was caused through the projectiles slipping back into the chamber after being rammed home. The guns were in no way injured. Such an occurrence could not take place in action, when full charges and steel projectiles would be used, as the projectile could not slip back and the gas pressure would be much higher.

INDIAN IRRIGATION SCHEME.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been directed to the reference made by Lord Curzon, in his speech at the Legislative Council on the 27th ult., to the necessity of initiating a positive advance in the irrigation system of the various provinces of India; and whether, in view of the importance of the question, he will lay upon the Table of the House the reports of the engineers by which the action of the Government of India in this respect will be guided.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I have seen the report of Lord Curzon's speech, which repeats the views I have several times expressed upon the same subject. I will see if a Blue-book upon irrigation can be compiled, as it is very desirable that there should be a clearer idea in certain quarters of what can and cannot be done by the extension of irrigation schemes in India.

INDIAN FINANCE.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether consideration has been given to the suggestion by the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, expressed in paragraph 69 of its unanimous Report, in support of proposals previously made, that the Indian financial year might end on 31st December, in order that the Indian accounts may be laid before Parliament at an earlier date than is now practicable, and that discussion of Indian finance earlier in each session may be made possible; and what decision has been reached; and at what date it is expected that the current Financial Statement and Accounts placed before the Supreme Legislative Council at Calcutta on 20th March will be presented to Parliament.

LORD G. HAMILTON: (1) A suggestion that the Indian financial year should be altered so as to end on the 31st of December was made some time ago; but a Select Committee of this House, in their Report of 1873, condemned it as undesirable. I have communicated to the Government of India the similar suggestion of the Royal Commission, but I do not anticipate that it will be found practicable to adopt it. (2) Special instructions have been given for the early transmission of a sufficient number of copies of the Indian Financial Statement to meet the demand of Members, and I hope that they may arrive early in May.

CHINA—SIEGE OF TIENTSIN—HEROISM OF MR. JAMES WATTS.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Government have in any way acknowledged the service rendered by Mr. James Watts, a British subject, who, during the recent siege of Tientsin, rode from there to Taku, through a country swarming with Boxers, to convey information to Admiral Bruce as to the serious state of affairs then prevailing at Tientsin; and whether the German Government has decorated Mr. Watts.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): His Majesty's Government have expressed to Mr. Watts their high appreciation of the gallant and distinguished service rendered by him to the European community at Tientsin during the siege, but he is, unfortunately, not eligible by existing warrants for any British Order or medal. The German Emperor has signified his desire to confer a medal upon Mr. Watts.

MANCHURIA—RUSSO-CHINESE AGREEMENT.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can now give the House any definite information as to the Russo-Chinese Agreement regarding Manchuria, and especially as to whether His Majesty's Government is supporting the Chinese Government in their refusal to sign this Agreement.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I am not able to add anything to that which I stated on Thursday in regard to Manchuria †

ROYAL PROCLAMATION AGAINST VICE AND IMMORALITY.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can say whether His Majesty has issued a proclamation against vice and immorality; and, if so, whether it will be distributed to clerks of the peace in time for it to be read at the approaching quarter sessions; and whether, having regard to the debate in this House in 1860, and to the Order in Council of June, 1884, dispensing with the reading of Her late Majesty's proclamation at assizes, he will consider the expediency of advising His Majesty's not to require a proclamation against vice and immorality to be read at courts of quarter sessions.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): No such proclamation has been issued.

FISHERY DISTURBANCES AT ST. IVES.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to certain occurrences in the neighbourhood of St. Ives indicating a possible renewal of the regrettable disturbances in 1896; and whether he will take immediate action to warn the locality to abstain from unlawful acts, and make all necessary and complete arrangements to promptly enforce the law for the protection of the persons and property of British subjects pursuing their lawful calling in British waters.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have heard nothing of this matter recently. The responsibility for preserving the peace rests with the local authorities, and I have no reason to doubt that they will take all proper steps for this purpose.

LEICESTER VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS.

*SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester): I beg to ask the President of the Local

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† See pages 178.

Government Board whether he is aware that, after an interval of sixteen years, a number of prosecutions under the Vaccination Acts are now taking place at Leicester; and whether, since the vaccination officer has received no instructions to prosecute from the board of guardians, this officer is acting under direct instructions from the Local Government Board; if so, will he say under what authority the Local Government Board gives such instructions, and if these instructions include proceedings against the parents of the 60,000 children who are liable to them; if so, whether he will give notification of his intention to the local authorities, in order that precautions may be taken to avoid any breach of the peace that might result from prosecutions on so large a scale.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): I am aware that steps are being taken with a view to enforcing the Vaccination Acts at Leicester. It is the duty of the vaccination officer to take all reasonable steps to put the Acts in force without any instructions from the guardians or the Local Government Board. The Board, through one of their inspectors, have reminded the vaccination officer of his duty in this matter, but they have given him no instructions as regards the particular cases referred to. I understand that the vaccination officer is only proceeding in a limited number of instances, and that these are cases of recent default in complying with the law.

*SIR JOHN ROLLESTON: May I ask whether the Local Government Board will give their inspector instructions to order the prosecutions to be taken more methodically, and to be directed against the mayor, magistrates, and town councillors, who are equally liable and who ought to know better instead of against——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. GRANT LAWSON: I may answer the first part of the question, as it gives rather a wrong impression. The inspector does not make the selection of those who are to be prosecuted. That is done by the vaccination officer, whose duty it is to see that the law is enforced, and therefore the inspector cannot be "more methodical" in his selection.

ENGINE EXPLOSION ON LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

*MR. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is now prepared to state the effect of the Board of Trade Inspector's Report on the explosion, on 11th March last, of engine 676 on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, whereby two men lost their lives; whether he is aware that a sister engine, No. 395, since tested, has revealed weakness of the same character as led to the fatal explosion above referred to, and that the test to which engine 676 was put was 220 lbs. only, and a working pressure of 175 lbs.; and whether, seeing that forty engines of the same make are in use on this railway, he will, in the interest of the public safety, order a special inspection of the boilers of these engines.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: No, Sir; my right hon. friend has not yet received the inspecting officer's report. If the Board of Trade are advised that the type of engine in question is open to the criticisms made by the hon. Member the Board will communicate with the company on the subject.

NOTTINGHAM LACE MARKET—TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General is now prepared to grant greater facilities to the business quarter of Nottingham known as the Lace Market, either by making the office in Stoney Street, called the Carlton Street Office, into a telegraph office, or in some other way; and whether he is aware that loss and inconvenience are being occasioned to business men by the withholding of the accommodation desired.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The question of opening a telegraph office near the Lace Market at Nottingham has been carefully considered by the Postmaster

General, and he takes the same view as his predecessor, namely, that the distance from the head office is not sufficient to justify the provision of the proposed additional accommodation. He is not aware that loss or inconvenience is caused by the present arrangement, and he would point out that every telegram handed in at such an office as the hon. Member suggests would be subject to an additional transmission and encounter an additional risk of error and delay.

TELEPHONIC ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.

SIR HARRY BULLARD (Norwich): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that at the present time there are delays in telephoning to Norwich and the Eastern Counties; and whether he will consider the question of giving increased trunk line communication to those places.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: New direct lines from Norwich, Ipswich, and Cambridge to London and between Norwich and Yarmouth were brought into use in the latter part of last year, and there is no considerable delay at present in messages to and from the Eastern Counties under normal circumstances, though there have been frequent interruptions owing to storms during the last three months. The Postmaster General has under consideration the provision of additional direct lines from London to Ware, Chelmsford, Cambridge, and Norwich, with a view to the improvement of communication, not only with those places, but also with other places with which they are in communication.

HYDE SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS.

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether his attention has been called to the cases of F. Samuels, who was fined, and F. Dawson, who was sent to prison, last December, for not sending their children to school at Hyde, Cheshire; whether he is aware that these men had applied for and been refused free places at George Street School, Hyde, near which they lived; that they had been referred by the School Attendance Committee for free places to the Roman Catholic School; and that the Board of Education had admitted that that school is not within a reasonable distance; whether he is aware that since the date of those occurrences about one hundred free places have been offered in the borough, whereas there are 1,000 applications for free places; and whether the Board of Education will take steps to enforce the provision of sufficient free places according to law.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The answer to paragraph 1 is in the affirmative, but the persons named were cautioned several times by the Attendance Committee before they were summoned. The answer to paragraph 2 is also in the affirmative, except to the last sentence, which is in the negative. In reply to paragraph 3, there are before the Board of Education 368 applications for free places, not directly from the parents, but from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The answer to paragraph 4 is in the affirmative.

BOLTON PUPIL TEACHER CENTRAL CLASSES.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, having regard to the fact that under date 29th September, 1899, the Board of Education sanctioned, under Paragraph XIV. (*a*), Science and Art Directory, a scheme for payment at evening rates towards the Bolton Pupil Teacher Central Classes, whether he can explain why such payment has nevertheless been refused for subjects other than chemistry.

SIR J. GORST: I am informed that the payment has not been refused for subjects other than chemistry, as stated in the question, but I will make further inquiry into the matter.

EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS IN LONDON.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, owing to the decision in the appeal upon Hamilton v. Cockerton, he will take steps to preserve the privileges of students in the Evening Continuation Schools of the London School Board pending the final decision of the House of Lords.

Sir J. GORST: The Board of Education have no power to authorise an illegal appropriation of rates, but so far as their own action is concerned they will, as I have several times already stated, continue to pay grants to evening schools as heretofore, pending the final decision of the House of Lords.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman amend the Evening Continuation Schools Code so as to legalise the instruction given in them?

Sir J. GORST: I must ask for notice of that.

PORT GLASGOW PUBLIC BATHS—SUNDAY CLOSING.

Mr. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that Port Glasgow Town Council has decided to close the public baths on all Sundays throughout the year, and whether, in the interests of public health, and particularly in view of the prevalence of small-pox in the West of Scotland, he will recommend the Port Glasgow Local Authority to cause the baths to be opened for a reasonable time every Sunday morning.

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I am informed by the Local Government Board for Scotland that there has not been a single case of small-pox in Port Glasgow. If there had been any outbreak there or in the immediate vicinity, there would have been good reason for closing the baths in the interests of public health, not on Sundays only, but throughout the week also. But the Board are informed that the resolution to close the baths on Sundays was with the view to keep down Sunday labour, and because the Town Council considered that the Sunday use of the baths did not warrant their being kept open. The matter, however, is to be reconsidered.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY CLASS FEES.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he can state when the Return of the Class Fees payable in the Universities of Scotland may be expected to be issued.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Return referred to by the hon. and learned Member is now in the hands of the Parliamentary printer, and will be issued as soon as possible.

CLIFDEN BAY FISHERIES.

Mr. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the importance to the proper development of the fishing industry in Connemara it is that a pier or harbour should be constructed in Clifden Bay, which is in close proximity to the railway terminus, he will urge upon the Congested Districts Board and the Irish Board of Works the desirability of constructing such pier or harbour as soon as possible; and whether he is aware of the representations that have frequently been made upon this matter to his predecessors in office.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): The question of the construction of a pier near Clifden is engaging the attention of the Congested Districts Board.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has observed that the annual attendance of readers in the British Museum Library of Printed Books in 1899 was 188,000, or only 34,000 more than in the National Library of Ireland, where the annual attendance of readers in the same year was 154,078, and will he explain why 26 assistant librarians and 50 attendants are employed in the former, as compared with 2 assistant librarians and 12 attendants in the latter: whether, in view of the fact that the National Library is the only State-supported public library in Ireland, and that the existing staff is quite unable to cope with the annually increasing attendance of readers, the necessary work of cataloguing and other demands, the number of assistant librarians and attendants will be increased in accordance with the recommendations of the Trustees:

and whether he is aware that the National Library is the only institution where Irish inventors are enabled to consult patent specifications, and that the trustees have been unable to accept a free gift of American patent specifications owing to lack of space.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have already stated that I cannot speak for the British Museum. No representations have been made by the trustees of the National Library of Ireland on the subject of an increased staff, since the control of the Library was transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The public have access to patent specifications at the Belfast public library, and a full set has also been presented to the Public Record Office in Dublin. The last query was answered by me on the 26th March.†

IRISH COUNTY COURT JUDGES' SALARIES.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and, if so, what increase has been made in the salaries of County Court Judges in Ireland in connection with their services in the administration of the Irish Land Acts; whether he will give the names of land valuers in connection with the county courts in Ireland, the date of the appointment of each, their addresses and occupations before appointment, the annual salary paid to each, and the average amount allowed for hotel and travelling expenses when discharging their duties; and whether he will state the qualifications for the office, and on whose recommendation each valuer was selected, and to whom he is responsible.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the negative. I have called for a Return containing particulars of the names, qualifications, and remuneration of the gentlemen employed as county court valuers during the past three years. Under Section 32 of the Land Law Act, 1887, county court valuers are nominated by the Irish Land Commission, and approved by the Lord Lieutenant.

IRISH LAND COMMISSIONERS.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give the name of each Land Commissioner in Ireland, the date of his appointment to that office, the address and occupation of each before his appointment, the salary received during the first year, the annual salary he is now receiving, together with the qualifications and the conditions of service and on whose recommendation each was selected; and whether he will state the amount of hotel and travelling expenses allowed to each per day in addition to his fixed salary; or, if there has been no daily allowance of expenses fixed, what is the average annual sum spent by each Land Commissioner.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member may not be aware that Returns have already been presented to Parliament, from time to time, exhibiting the names, qualifications, and remuneration of the Chief Land Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. The numbers of the Returns are 177 of 1891; 107 and 417 of 1897; and 258 of 1900. Perhaps he would be good enough to refer to these Returns and let me know what further information he desires.

CLAREMORRIS UNION—OWEN COYNE'S HOLDING.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the holding of Owen Coyne, Redhill, Ballyhaunis, in the Claremorris Union, was divided in April, 1898, between himself and Pat Herbert after his applications to have the land revalued had been left unsettled for nearly three years; whether, in view of the dissatisfaction felt by Owen Coyne with the revaluation made by the revisor, he will cause a revaluation of the holding to be made, so that each tenant may bear his due share of the rates and other cesses levied on the basis of valuation; and whether Owen Coyne will be recouped by the revisor for the moneys paid for rates owing to the alleged delay of that official for his revaluation of the audit.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question of the necessity for a further valuation in this case should be brought before the Commissioner of Valuation by the local rating authorities. The answer to the last paragraph is "No."

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† See preceding volume, page 1374.

IRISH INSPECTORSHIP OF FISHERIES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a vacancy has been or is about to be created for the position of Inspector of Fisheries in Ireland; and, if so, whether he will see that no one having a direct pecuniary interest in the fisheries of Ireland shall be appointed.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have reason to believe that there will be a vacancy. The consideration urged in the latter part of the question is one which would obviously be taken into account when a selection is made from candidates for such a post.

MONAGHAN QUARTER SESSIONS—SPIRIT LICENCE TO MR. LESLIE.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland, in reference to the proceedings at Monaghan quarter sessions on the 26th ultimo, in connection with the granting of a licence to Mr. Leslie, agent of the Earl of Dartrey, whether he is aware that of the forty magistrates present many came from a distance and from districts other than the petty sessions district of Monaghan; and whether, in view of the fact that the October quarter sessions is the ordinary licensing sessions in Ireland, by what authority these magistrates attended and adjudicated at a sessions court other than the court of the district to which they were appointed by the Lord Chan-

AN HON. MEMBER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a number of what are known as "Morley magistrates" were imported and voted against the licence?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The hon. Member is confounding quarter sessions with petty sessions. It is only in reference to the latter that ordinary justices are required by the Lord Chancellor to indicate the petty sessions district in which they will elect to serve. In this instance all the justices present were justices entitled to serve in the petty sessions districts comprised in the quarter sessions division for which the sessions were then held. There was, therefore, nothing irregular or improper in the constitution of the Court, so far as I am aware.

MR. FLYNN: I am not concerned with the "Morley" magistrates. I want to know if it is proper for magistrates to act in divisions outside their own, except at the annual licensing sessions in October?

MR. ATKINSON: Justices are appointed for a county, but for the convenience of public business the Lord Chancellor asked them to act in a particular petty sessional district.

MR. FLYNN: Is it not a fact that one of these magistrates came all the way from Aldershot to vote for this licence?

[No answer was returned.]

TRAINED NURSES IN ARMAGH WORKHOUSE.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with regard to the appointment by the Local Government Board of Ireland of a trained nurse in the Armagh Workhouse instead of a probationer assistant nurse, in opposition to the wishes of the local authorities, will he explain why the Local Government Board have not adopted the course offered by them and agreed to by the guardians, of having the legality of the action of the Board, in appointing the nurse contrary to the wishes of the guardians, and the liability of the guardians to pay the wages of the nurse appointed under such circumstances, tested in the superior courts by means of a case stated; and why, instead of adopting that course, a few weeks afterwards—namely, on 4th February, 1901—the Local Government Board issued a General Order by which the previously existing power which boards of guardians possessed of appointing, with the consent and approval of the Local Government Board, such and so many assistants as boards of guardians should deem necessary, has been taken away, and by which boards of guardians are now compelled, without regard to their own opinion, to appoint such and so many qualified assistants as the Local Government Board alone shall from time to time think necessary; and, has the word "qualified" in that Order been given any definition save the words "such qualifications as the Local Government Board shall think necessary."

MR. WYNDHAM: The Local Government Board made their General Order of the 4th February, 1901, because an objection had been raised by the Armagh guardians to the Board's Nursing Order of 1895. Similar but not identical questions arose in other unions. The Board therefore decided upon making a General Order dealing with the whole subject of the appointment of assistant nurses and attendants, and they were advised that this was the best means of avoiding litigation when irreconcilable differences of opinion on the sufficiency of the nursing staff existed between the Local Government Board and boards of guardians. As this course involved the repeal of the previous Order referred to by the guardians, it was not necessary to test its validity in a court of law. The word "qualified" is correctly interpreted in the question.

CAPPAWHITE POLICE AND AUCTION NOTICES.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether on Sunday, 3rd March, head constable Fitzgibbon, R.I.C., Cappawhite, county Tipperary, ordered the constables under him, as the people were coming out from divine service in the Roman Catholic church of Cappawhite, to tear down the notices of the auction of the estate of Hugh Bradshaw Weldon, which had been ordered to be sold by Mr. Justice Ross; and whether, in consequence of the head constable's action, the auction was not held.

MR. WYNDHAM: The head constable acted under an instruction in the Constabulary Manual directing the removal of placards calculated to attract crowds so as to cause obstruction to the public streets or thoroughfares. I do not consider that this instruction can be fairly held to apply to the case of so small a village, where crowds are not likely to assemble in such numbers as to cause inconvenience, and I have so informed the Inspector General. Many other placards to a like effect were displayed in the village, and two immediately opposite to the one that was removed.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: Will the right hon. Gentleman give instructions to the inspector to use more discretion?

MR. WYNDHAM: That has been done.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the police have on several occasions pulled down placards announcing meetings of the United Irish League?

[No answer was given.]

ARMAGH RURAL POSTMEN.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that, in consequence of the establishment some two years ago of the house-to-house delivery in the Armagh rural postal district, the labours of two of the country postmen were increased; that both these men petitioned for a revision of their walks; that this petition was granted in the case of one of these men, and his walk curtailed some eight months ago, while in the case of the other man no survey of his walk has yet taken place, so that he is still obliged to travel one hour daily beyond the allotted period; what was the cause of the disparity in the treatment of the two men; and whether, in the latter case, the man will be allowed extra remuneration for the extra labour performed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General will cause inquiry to be made at once into the circumstances of the case, and the hon. Member shall be informed of the result as soon as possible.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask, without notice, which I trust is not required, whether the Government have any real intention this session to deal, as they said they intended to deal in the King's Speech, with the question of Irish land purchase; and if they have such an intention, when they propose to lay their proposals before the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The general scheme of legislation announced in the Speech from the Throne must depend on the general progress of business, and it would be impossible to give specific pledges now.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Has the right hon. Gentleman any serious intention of introducing legislation in accordance with the declaration in the King's Speech?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If I am to define that as asking what are the intentions of the Government, I may say I still hope to be able to carry out the programme of legislation indicated.

SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS—PROPOSED COMMITTEE.

Mr. GORDON (Elgin and Nairn): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has taken any steps to secure the appointment of a Committee to deal with the order in which Estimates should be taken on Supply days during the session; what will be the terms of reference to such a Committee; and in what manner it is proposed to constitute the Committee so as to make it representative of the various sections of opinion in the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I communicated the scheme which I have more than once sketched to the House to that quarter which is generally represented by the Opposition, but I am sorry to say that it found no favour. What I proposed was that there should be a Committee of seven Members, on which the Government and the official Opposition should each have one representative, and on which the Scottish, Irish, and Welsh Members should have one representative each drawn from the Opposition and two from private Members on this side of the House. On a party vote in the Committee the Government would be in a minority of one. The terms of reference which I proposed were:—"To report from time to time as to the order in which it is expedient to take the Votes in Committee of Supply." I think that scheme carried out the intention suggested, but as it has not met with favour in a most important quarter of the House it must stand over for the present. My offer is still firm, and as soon as it is accepted I will deal with it.

NEW EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is in a position to state when the provisions of the Education Bill, promised in the King's Speech, will be submitted to the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope that the Bill will be introduced shortly.

REX V. COCKERTON.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what action the Government proposes to take in connection with the dismissal by the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justices Collins and Romer of the appeal of the London School Board against the decision of the Court of King's Bench, shortly known as the Cockerton Judgment; and whether the London and other school boards may understand that, pending the passing into law of any proposals the Government may be prepared to make, the *status quo ante* will be maintained in respect of the practices now ruled to be illegal.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that that question has already been answered by my right hon. friend the Vice-President of the Council.

Dr. MACNAMARA: That question referred especially to evening school pupils over sixteen. My question deals with the question of higher instruction in day schools.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; but I take it the same general principle will apply to both.

THE NEW CODE—HIGHER ELEMENTARY MINUTE.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, having regard to the proposed provisions of the Education Code for 1901, under which the attendances of any child of upwards of fifteen years of age will not be recognised in a higher elementary school, and to the proposed provisions of the Code, under which no scholar may remain in a higher elementary school beyond the close of the school year in which he or she is fifteen years of age, except such scholars as may be receiving instruction in a school at the time of its conversion into a higher elementary school, and are allowed to remain with the sanction of the Board of Education, whether he will arrange that these provisions shall not become operative until they have been discussed by the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can give no such pledge as the hon. Member desires.

DR. MACNAMARA: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the liveliest dissatisfaction is expressed with respect to the proposal to turn children out at fifteen years of age?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot proceed to argue the question.

PROPOSAL TO FILE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN THE LIBRARY.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the delay in the publication of the Hansard Report, he will cause copies of the answers to questions to be filed in the Library.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This question involves a principle which, as I have said more than once in answer to questions, is impossible of universal application. Supplementary questions and answers could not, of course, be printed beforehand, so that it would be impossible for a complete transcript of the proceedings at Question time to be put in the Library at once. I believe the Foreign Office and another Department already send their answers there.

NEW BILLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Bill to amend the law relating to the qualification and tenure of office of Medical Officers of Health, Inspectors of Nuisances, and Sanitary Inspectors, and to provide for superannuation allowances to such Officers and Inspectors, and for contribution towards such allowances by such Officers and Inspectors, and to make other relative provisions, ordered to be brought in by Sir Francis Powell, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Talbot, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, and Sir Michael Foster.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the qualification and tenure of office of Medical Officers of Health, Inspectors of Nuisances, and Sanitary Inspectors, and to provide for superannuation allowances to such Officers and Inspectors, and for contribution towards such allowances by such Officers and Inspectors, and to make other relative provisions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday 22nd April, and to be printed. [Bill 141.]

PETROLEUM.

Bill to amend The Petroleum Act, 1879, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ure, The Master of Elibank, Mr, Harold Reckitt, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Compton Rickett, Mr. Cross, Mr. M'Killop, and Mr. Trevelyan.

PETROLEUM BILL.

"To amend The Petroleum Act, 1879," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday 23rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 142.]

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE (EASTER).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House at its rising this day do adjourn till Thursday 18th April." (*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I rise at the request of my hon. friends to move the Amendment which stands in their names on the Paper, namely, that the House should reassemble on Monday, the 15th inst. Of course, I know it is cheap heroism to propose anything in the nature of a suggestion for shortening the holidays, because we were aware that we are in a hopeless minority, and that the First Lord has absolute power to impose his own view and that of the majority upon the House. But there are one or two matters which I should like to lay before the House, because I believe them to be material to the issues we have to decide. For instance, on the Wednesday which, under the resolution of the Leader of the House, was to be the last day of the holidays, the first Order of the Day is a Bill with regard to the hours of young persons in mines, which I am convinced would lead, not only to a practical debate, but also to a practical issue, and would afford an example of the utility of discussions on private Members' Bills. The hon. Member for Derby, who has charge of the Bill, has every reason to believe that the Bill would lead to that practical result, and I can only say that it was intentionally put down for that particular day, because, from information which was available at the time, it was quite understood that the Easter holidays would have been completed by then. It therefore cannot be suggested that the position in which the Bill now stands is due to any act of carelessness on the part of its backers. From the late meeting of Parliament we all anticipated that the holidays would have been less long than of recent years. Undoubtedly, until very lately, the House never took a longer vacation than from Good Friday until the following Monday week. It never took more than that, without proportionately lessening the Whitsuntide recess. In the face of the great pressure of public business, and in the belief that the Easter holidays would be shorter, we thought that my hon. friend would have been able to bring on his Bill on April 17th. Now, the great pressure hitherto alleged to the House as the reason for entirely taking away from private Members Tuesdays and Wednesdays, is not likely to be relaxed after Easter; indeed it appears that it will be greater than in ordinary years. We have not only the whole programme of Government legislation still remaining, including the Irish Land Purchase Bill and the Factories and Workshops Bill, but after Easter we shall have three unusual demands on our time. We did not complete before 31st March the business which is usually taken in the first financial period of the Session, and have still the Army resolution to overtake. Then there is the business of the Civil List, which must be brought before the House. Again, through the great strain on the finances of the country we are likely to have a Budget which will make abnormal demands on the time of the House. This pressure on the second part of the Session will intensify that process of entirely destroying private Members' time which it appears the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House hopes to accomplish. We have been told that the Government do not propose to meet on the Monday because they would have but one day out of the three—two being given to private Members. It is not my business to protect the right hon. Gentleman's time, but the first day after Easter holidays is often the most useful of the whole Session to the Government. I have heard the right hon. Gentleman himself say that by putting down, on the first day after the Easter recess, Votes which are not controversial, the House got through, in a reasonable and businesslike fashion, a very large amount of business.

I am not going to detain the House with reference to the motion which stands in my own name for the Tuesday, in regard to labour legislation. I never anticipated that it would take much time; but since it has been placed on the Paper the Government have introduced the Factories and Workshops Bill, and if they intend to give one day to the Second Reading of that Bill, and to pass it this session, they will have done the greater portion of what was expected of them in regard to labour legislation this session. The country undoubtedly expects an Amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act. They have been leading up to that Amendment by their circulars to the county court judges, so that we need not expect the amending Bill until next year. There are other Bills which have been waiting for a long time to be brought forward, the Coal Mines Bill and the Bill in regard to metalliferous mines which has been ready since 1888 and which is urgently needed. I do not, however, rest my Amendment on my own Tuesday's resolution, for the pressing nature of the latter disappears with the promise of the Government to pass the Factories and Workshops Bill. But there remains the motion which stands on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Derby for the Second Reading of the Coal Mines (Employment) Bill—a Bill of real practical interest, and one which we had every reason to expect would have come on as the first order of the day on Wednesday, 17th April. I never like to use exaggerated language, and I never before to day have, in any way, joined in accusing the First Lord of the Treasury of desiring to diminish the importance of the House of Commons; but I confess that the incidental effect of the constant pressure on the House, the constant demand to put all power in the hands of the Government in consequence of that pressure, must be to diminish the importance of the House of Commons in the Constitution. I read a humorous sketch the other day of how the House of Commons became a cycling school. As we never abolish institutions in this country, the House of Commons was, in the skit, not abolished, but only remained in the form of the Terrace, with its usual attractions, while the seats of this Chamber were removed, and the floor turned into a cycling school. I do not say that we are travelling very fast in that direction; but I do begin to see a decrease in the natural functions of the House of Commons in the Constitution caused by the constant demands and pressure on unofficial Members to give up all part in its deliberations. As a protest against that course I shall press my Amendment to a division.

*Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to second the Amendment, and I hope the Government will give serious consideration to the arguments raised by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean. I feel considerable interest in the Coal Mines (Employment) Bill, as my name is on the back of it. I remember being consulted at the time when the Bill was placed upon the Paper, it having got a good place in the ballot, as to whether it should be put down for April 17th or on a later day. After discussion, it was understood that the House would be in session on 17th April, on account of the pressure of public business and the few opportunities private Members have had up to the present time for debating important subjects or Bills which they wished to bring forward. The promoters of this Bill were consequently justified in putting the Bill down for the 17th April. I do feel that, in spite of the arduous duties that have fallen on the officials of the House as well as upon ourselves, we might do with two or three days less holiday, and if we met on the 15th instead of the 18th April we should have not only sufficient leisure to recruit our energies, but to carefully consider subjects of deep interest to private Members. Monday would be a useful day for Supply and other Government business; Tuesday might be taken up with the resolution of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean; and then on Wednesday there would have been this Bill which relates to the employment of young persons in coal mines. I would urge upon the Government to earnestly consider the appeal we make in the interest of tens of thousands of the industrial classes of this country, as well as in the interest of the physical and moral development of generations of the workers to come, to give us an opportunity of discussing this Bill on Second Reading. I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "Thursday, 18th," in order to add the words "Monday, 15th."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'Thursday, 18th,' stand part of the Question."

Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said that in the ordinary course if the Amendment had been such as had been put to the House on other occasions he should have advocated the Government resisting to the utmost in their power the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet the member for the Forest of Dean, because it was idle to say that the Bill was not put down for the 17th April without some inquiries being made. He drew attention to the fact because he thought the House ought to watch very closely the practice, which had a tendency to grow, of hon. Members putting down Bills in which they were interested on days when there was not much chance of their coming on, and then making claim for a further day. He thought such claims ought to be strenuously resisted. The present case was, however, different. He did not know what course the Government were going to take with regard to the motion, but what he felt was that if the holidays of the House as a whole were going to be shortened in the interest of particular Members interested in particular groups of Bills, the country as a whole ought to get some value for the concession in the shape of a guarantee that progress would be made with Government business on the Monday.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) said that such a suggestion was simply huckstering. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that hon. Members were to restrain themselves from urging their views on Government business in order that certain Bills should be given a preference. He hoped the Government would resist any such bargain. He did not blame the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean for attempting to make a bargain for a measure in which he took a personal interest. The proposal that the House should meet on the 18th of April had met with general approval, and although the hon. Gentlemen who would speak a few words in support of the measure of the right hon. baronet, and would be eulogised in the local press, were willing to give up their leisure in order to pass the Bill, it should not be allowed to go forth that the Government had entered into such an arrangement.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) joined in the appeal that had been made to the Government by the right hon. the Member for Forest of Dean. The length of the Easter holidays was unprecedented, at any rate except so far as the last three or four years were concerned, and the precedents of the last few years should not be taken into consideration, because during that period the Opposition had not been up to what might be termed normal strength, whilst the Government had an enormous majority. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House would not follow the bad precedents of the last three or four years. There had been late sittings, and large and repeated doses of closure, which ought not to be given in too great doses without great pressure of business of the State, and then the House was told that the Easter recess was to be sixteen days. When an appeal was made to the right hon. Gentleman to reduce the recess to thirteen days he said he would only gain one day. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to have forgotten that there were such creatures as private Members, who, however humble, were still Members of the House. What would be gained by sitting on these extra days? In the first place, on the 17th there was the Coal Mines Employment Bill, a Bill in which three-quarters of a million workers of the country took a deep interest. The second motion down for Tuesday, 16th of April, dealt with the disestablishment of the Church in Wales. That was a matter which above all others interested the people of Wales; it was in fact the question upon which the last six General Elections had been fought in the Principality.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) said he hoped that the Employment in Mines Bill would not be brought forward until it would be possible to get a fair expression of opinion on the subject. A few days ago the question of an eight hours day for miners came before the House suddenly on a Wednesday afternoon, and the subject was not sufficiently discussed.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he wished to say one or two words with reference to what fell from the right hon. Member for the Hallam Division. The Employment in Mines Bill was one to which there was no real opposition in principle. The promoters of the Bill having obtained a favourable position, had been taken by surprise on finding that there was to be an undue prolongation of the Easter holidays. The right hon. Member for the Hallam Division has suggested that if the Government were able to assent to the proposal now made to them they would expect some *quid pro quo* in regard to Government busi ness. None of them were able to make any definite bargain with reference to the matter. If the Government were able to see their way now, as a matter of course, to meet the views of hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House, and of others on their own side who were interested in the Bill, he believed there would be a general disposition to assist the Government in regard to the proposals they meant to make if the proposals were not of a very contentious character. There had been up to Easter very excessive pressure on the time of the House, and it seemed to some Members, in view of that fact, that they should not have an extended holiday. The business of the House ought not to have been so arranged that they would have undue pressure at one time and too long holidays at another. This particular Bill was one which many Members believed would settle a most difficult question with reference to labour in mines, and looking to the fact that they did not desire to have undue pressure on the House, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way even now to agree to the motion of the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): If I were to accede to the appeals made to me I can hardly picture to myself the dismay which would be displayed on both sides of the House. There would be much weeping and gnashing of teeth. [Cries of "No, no."] Well, I rather think so. But the majority of the House, I mean quite irrespective of party, need be under no alarm. I do not think it would be possible for the Government to accede to the proposition advanced, I must say with extreme moderation, by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean. It is not that I am a purist of the school of my right hon. friend the Member for the Isle of Thanet. I have not that Spartan virtue which would prevent me under any circumstances from making a bargain in regard to the progress of Government business with gentlemen on the other side of the House who have the power and occasionally the will to assist the Government; but, after all, whatever arrangements we come to, no business of a controversial character or of even first-rate importance could be thought of on the first Monday after the Easter holidays. The practice and convenience of the House are against it, and there would be a universal protest from all sides of the House were we to take any controversial business, or even small measures which excite any great feeling on the other side. The truth is, hon. Gentlemen opposite who have spoken have oscillated between two different lines of argument in dealing with this question. Their real motive is to have certain discussions upon private Members' resolutions or Bills, which I am sure would be of an interesting character; but the argument they advance is that if the House does not meet until Thursday, the 18th instant, there will be a congestion of public business after Easter as there has been before Easter. The congestion before Easter was due to the exigencies of Supply, that is to say, hon. Members insisted upon their right to discuss the Estimates at great length, and that produced, as it must produce, a congestion of business; and the result is that not only has the Government not been able to have a first-class discussion upon any stage of the larger Bills of the session, but the House has been obliged to sit up night after night to very inordinate hours, to the great fatigue of the officers of the House and of those hon. Members who supported the Government in carrying through the work necessary for the country. I do not know whether the hon. Members who appeal to me were among those who sat up and helped the Government to get through the Estimates. The officers of the House had to do so, and I must say that I do not think an Easter holiday was ever better earned than the not unduly prolonged Easter holiday which we have appointed for the present year. And supposing we were to curtail the holidays as suggested, we would do very little in the way of diminishing congestion of business, inasmuch as the Government would have but one day out of the three. In other words, we should curtail these well-earned holidays by three days; but so far as congestion is concerned, we should only diminish it by one day, and although there might be a great deal of business got through on that occasion, it would be business of a non-controversial kind, and not the kind that produces congestion at the end of the session. From that point of view the loss to the holidays would be great, but the gain in respect of the congestion of business would be small. I come now to the real motive. It is a perfectly legitimate motive on the part of hon. Members who have pressed us to meet on Monday instead of Thursday. Their motive is to have debates on certain industrial questions and the question of Disestablishment. The right hon. Baronet seemed almost to suggest that the industrial Bill in which he is interested was of such a character that it would pass practically *sub silentio*, or in the ordinary course. It must be borne in mind that there are too many private Bills before the Bill of the right hon. Baronet for it to be passed this session. As to the question of Welsh disestablishment, I do not think it is of very great importance whether that discussion comes on or not, because it is a subject which has formerly been before the House in the form of an abstract resolution, and in the form of a Government Bill brought forward by a responsible administration. [AN HON. MEMBER: Not in this Parliament.]

The right hon. Gentleman was, I think unintentionally, rather unfair in the observation which he made. He seemed to think that the interests of debate in this House were to be found in a great increase of time given to abstract discussions on Tuesday evenings, or the almost equally abstract discussions on Wednesdays after Easter. I do not deny that occasionally matters of very great importance may come up on those days, and that in the past we have had—and in the future I hope we shall have—debates in which both sides of the House take part, and of great interest to the House and the country. But my observations of the use to which Tuesdays have been put in the past does not lead me to believe that there is that burning desire in the House for these Tuesday discussions. I believe I am one of the most earnest upholders of these discussions, but private Members themselves, by their presence here at the critical hour of dinner time, do not seem to be very fond of sacrificing their leisure in order to carry on what is very often an academic debate. The truth is that if the interest in the debates in this House is in peril at the present time it is due, not to the arrangement of Government business, or to the taking of private Members' time to carry out the necessary work of the Government, but to the character of the debate which the House insists upon having in Committee of Supply. If hon. Members use the opportunity which they undoubtedly possess in Committee of Supply for the purpose of discussing small and frivolous points, it is impossible to interest the House. But perhaps I shall be travelling beyond the limits of the Amendment if I pursue that topic, upon which, however, I am very ready to dilate when the proper occasion comes. I venture to say that the House might now bring this part of our afternoon's debate to a conclusion. The reason I make that appeal is that complaint is constantly being brought against the Government that we do not give sufficient opportunities for raising important general issues. We had so arranged the time this afternoon that there was an opportunity, if this motion had not been started immediately after questions, of discussing until seven o'clock any topic which excites great interest. I am sorry that we have already spent an hour and a half of that time, and I hope the House will not stultify itself further by making an appeal to the Government to give time which hon. Members cannot be given for these abstract discussions, and in the very act of making that appeal fritter away the opportunity which they have. I venture to hope that the Amendment may now be divided upon.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I desire to explain why my friends and I intend to vote in favour of the Amendment. I candidly confess that it is not that we think that the devoting of Tuesday and Wednesday to private Members' business will materially advance the important subjects down for those days. I am very much inclined to agree with the Leader of the House that very little practical result would be likely to accrue from the discussion, but at the same time I should be very sorry to stand in the way of the consideration of those important matters affecting such a large section of the people of Great Britain. The ground upon which we intend to vote for the curtailment of the holidays is clear and specific. The Government are depriving themselves of one Government day. In the King's Speech the Government announced their intention of introducing a Bill dealing with the land purchase question in Ireland. The importance of that question has been admitted by every English politician who has spoken on the subject, no matter on which side of the House he sits. This afternoon I asked the Leader of the House whether he could give us some assurance that the Government really intended this session to fulfil the pledge in the King's Speech, and to introduce a Land Purchase Bill for Ireland. The answer I got was of such a character that I am sure everybody who heard it came to the definite conclusion that the Government had no hope whatever of being able to proceed seriously with such a Bill this session. The answer given supplied the reason. The Leader of the House said he could not speak of the programme of legislation until he saw how the business of the House progressed. That was but another way of intimating that he feared there would not be sufficient time at the disposal of the Government to deal with the question. If the question is really one of such far-reaching importance, as the Government themselves have admitted it to be, I say it is a serious scandal if the House of Commons decides to prolong the holidays and to cut out the one opportunity which perhaps remains to the Government to redeem the pledge. I admit there never was a holiday more thoroughly earned by the House than this Easter recess. The Leader of the House speaks of the exertions and labours of those Members who have remained night after night to support the Government, but I think probably he will admit that the labours of those Members who, in the discharge of what they considered to be their duty, have remained in the House to oppose the Government and Government business were quite as exhausting. But the holiday from to-day until Monday week would be ample, and quite as long as the House of Commons has been in the habit of indulging in at Easter, even in sessions when the House assembled at the usual time, and it must be remembered that the work of this session did not commence until about a fortnight later than usual. The Government admit that their work is in arrears, and that they are afraid they will be forced, for want of time, to throw over some of their most important business. Why, therefore, this year should be selected for an unusually long Easter holiday passes my comprehension. The House will probably admit that Irishmen are as fond of a holiday as any other people, but all I have to say to-day on behalf of Irish Members here is that, anxious as we are to get home to our own country and to enjoy a well-earned rest, at the same time we feel that this holiday is being unduly prolonged, and that we ought to press upon the Government to devote the extra day which with a light heart they are throwing away to the consideration of their Land Purchase Bill for Ireland.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): After the reply given by the right hon. Gentleman to my hon. friend the Member for Waterford to-day, the Nationalist Members will have to go and tell their constituents that, notwithstanding the promise in the King's Speech, the Government are trying to shirk their duty in regard to bringing in an Irish Land Purchase Bill this session. The fact is that Ireland has been in such a state of calm during the last few months that the Government have almost forgotten her existence. It is only when there is a fierce agitation in Ireland that she is remembered by His Majesty's Government. I, however, promise the right hon. Gentleman that Nationalists will utilise this long recess to inform their people of the treatment of the Government, and to point out to them the old lesson that if they want Parliament to attend to them they must stir themselves. The House is told that there is no time for Irish business. For the last five years a little measure has been coming before the House. Why could not a day be given for passing the Catholic Disabilities Bill into law?

*MR. SPEAKER intimated that the hon. Member must confine his remarks to the Amendment, and not refer to other matters on the Paper.

MR. LEAMY: Very well, Sir. I will conclude by again stating that the Irish Members will use the recess to tell their constituents that they have no right to place any faith or confidence in the promises of the Government.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell) desired to call attention to the unfair treatment Members of the House had received in respect of the Education Code, but—

*MR. SPEAKER ruled that that question could not be raised on the Amendment under discussion.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 156; Noes, 88. (Division List No. 122.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin L.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Higginbottom, S W.
Hoare. Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Kenyon, Hn. Geo T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Middlemore, John T.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pácy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Warde, Col. C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Ta'nt'n
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Broadhurst, Henry

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Efrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter(Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roe, Sir Thomas
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn C R (Northants
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, Davis Alfred (Merth'r)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Lewis and Mr. Jacoby.

Main Question again proposed.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—CONDUCT OF WAR—TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): Parliament is about to separate, and that at a time when the public mind has probably never been so filled with unrest, anxiety, and alarm. The outlook is serious, and the problems in South Africa, both of a political and racial character, are grave. I venture to lay before the House certain views which I do not think have yet been debated on the lines on which I propose to submit them, and I hope to do so, by the indulgence of the House, with perfect frankness and with as much brevity as I can command. The extreme moderation of the declaration of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary in the House of Commons on 8th December occasioned a feeling of hopefulness in the public mind. But the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the other night was so relentless in tone that I think the heart of every lover of peace throughout the country must have been made sick. Moreover, the proclamations of Lord Roberts, which, in my opinion, exasperated instead of pacifying the Boers, and the consequent failure of the peace negotiations, are both consistent with the attitude expressed in the speech of the Colonial Secretary.

I will deal first with the proclamations' though not, of course, with them in their entirety; but there are one or two points in regard to them which I think ought to be brought before the notice of the country. With reference to these proclamations, which, in my opinion, have prolonged instead of abbreviating the devastating struggle in South Africa, it is surely, to begin with, common ground, and of the highest importance, that no violence should be done under the hand of the official representative of this country to our best military traditions or to the practice of civilised nations. I have studied and restudied these proclamations, and I have come to the sorrowful conclusion that, besides not effecting their object, they did do violence both to our military traditions and to the practice of civilised nations. They are tainted absolutely with illegality. There are two instances that I desire to bring before the House. These two instances arose out of the first proclamation issued by Lord Roberts—that terrible proclamation of the 19th June, 1900, which, in my judgment, has done more than any other single document could have done to protract this unhappy quarrel in South Africa. The part of that proclamation to which I particularly desire the attention of the House is that which ordered the placing of the principal residents of a district where a railway line or telegraph wire had been cut, on the trains passing through that district. It says:—

> "As a further precautionary measure the Military Director has been authorised to order that one or more residents selected by him from each district shall from time to time personally accompany the trains while passing through the district."

I could hardly believe my eyes when I read that proclamation, issued under the authority of a civilised power. There has been no instance during the last half century of this practice known to international lawyers except one. I am citing from a leading authority on international law—Mr. Hall's work. The historical instance he gives is as follows:—

> "In 1870 the Germans ordered that, railways having been frequently damaged, the trains shall be accompanied by well known and respected persons inhabitating the town or other localities in the neighbourhood of the lines. These persons shall be placed upon the engine, so that it may be understood that in every accident caused by the hostility of the inhabitants their compatriots will be the first to suffer. The competent civil and military authorities, together with the railway companies and the etappen commandants, will organise a service of hostages to accompany the trains."

What says this authority on international law on the subject? He says:—

> "This order was universally and justly reprobated on the ground that it violated the principle which denies to a belligerent any further power than that of keeping his hostage in confinement, and it is for Governments to consider whether it is worth while to retain a right which can only be made effective by means of an illegal brutality which existing opinion refuses to condone."

That is the language of an acknowledged authority with regard to the law of civilised nations. It is stronger than any language that I should have used on my own motion. This may have come to the view of Lord Roberts, or some strong and sensible legal advice may have been communicated to him, because in five weeks after that proclamation was issued, namely, on the 27th July, it was ordered to be withdrawn. That confirms the view of its essential illegality, but unhappily it must have done much to uproot in the minds of the people so treated the notion that we were determined to keep within the lines of civilised warfare. The thing had been done; how could we undo the powerful effect it had on the minds of the inhabitants so dealt with or so threatened? I will now refer to another thing which may be said to have moved the heart of civilised mankind, namely, the proclamation with regard to the burning and devastation of farms,—"the houses and farms in the vicinity." Observe the language of this same proclamation, which is not in accordance with the language used in this House on the 8th December by the Colonial Secretary. I grant that a more humane construction has been put upon it, but we must look at it as we find it. "The houses and farms in the vicinity where damage is done will be destroyed and the residents dealt with under martial law." What were the reasons for that destruction? Only one is given. The allegation might have been the complicity of the persons inhabiting these houses. The actual reason is the vicinity of the place to where the damage is done. The latter is the reason given, and, this being so, in my judgment a violation of the law of civilised nations and the laws of war has been distinctly perpetrated. The only excuse according to international law for the destruction of property is when that property is at the time being used for belligerent purposes, direct or indirect. Now that was not the excuse, and not the order that was given. Officers and soldiers were not instructed by this proclamation to destroy property used for belligerent purposes. They were not instructed to destroy property defended by a hostile armed force, but they were instructed to destroy property on one ground and one ground only, namely, its vicinity to the place where an outrage was committed, with which the inhabitants might be totally unconnected. That is doing the very thing against which every development of an International Code regulating the practices of war has protested. It is involving the innocent with the guilty, and does violence to a law acknowledged all over the civilised world. Why was that done? Why was property destroyed on account of its vicinity to certain outrages on the railway line? I think the reasons were disclosed in a certain fatal document issued by Lord Roberts.

I wish to call the attention of the House to this, because I am dealing with the matter on legal grounds, and I am submitting to the House that the proclamations I am endeavouring to analyse violated not only military tradition, but the acknowledged law of civilised nations. Lord Roberts wrote to General Botha on September 2nd as follows:—"I need not tell you how repugnant these measures are to me." I believe him. Lord Roberts is not the man of whom anything else could be said. These measures were repugnant to him, as I hope they were to every British officer and every British soldier. Then Lord Roberts adds, "but I am obliged to resort to the same." Why? "By the evidently firm resolve on the part of yourself and the burghers to continue the war." I must refer to that reason as an extraordinary departure from the rules of civilised warfare. It simply means saying to the enemy, "You are more numerous than we expected, you are a foe more tenacious and more resolute, you are more difficult to defeat, and for that reason we shall employ against you measures which are repugnant to our better nature." I say that is a repudiation and condemnation of the policy adopted by these proclamations. Until this war we were in the vanguard of civilised nations with regard to the rules of warfare. The communication made by Sir John Ardagh on the occasion of The Hague Convention reflected the highest credit both on him and the country he represented. What did that Convention show? That we had the highest regard for the property of an invaded country, and that we were determined to protect private property. This is the law as laid down by The Hague Convention. "It is forbidden to attack or bombard undefended towns, villages, dwellings, or buildings." It may be said that the Transvaal was not a party to The Hague Convention, but in that respect The Hague Convention made no advance whatever on the rules which had been laid down by the Conference of Brussels and the Convention of Geneva. I am now going to cite to the House what is known as the Military Red-book, the Manual of Military Law, which is published every year by the Government. I have taken the edition of 1899 because this war started in that year. The following rules are contained in that excellent manual:—

> "As the object of war is confined to disabling the enemy, the infliction of any injuries beyond that which is required to produce disability is needless cruelty."

That is one of our own rules. Why has it been departed from? Then, again, the following general principle is laid down in the Manual of Military Law:—

> "The general principle is that in the mode of carrying on war no greater harm shall be done to the enemy than necessity requires for the purpose of bringing him to terms. This principle excludes gratuitous barbarities, and every description of cruelty and insult which serves only to exasperate the sufferings or to increase the hatred of the enemy, without weakening his strength or tending to procure his submission."

By that test let this thing be tried. Is there any man who in his heart will not acknowledge that these proclamations have tended towards what it should be the rule of military policy to avoid, namely, the exasperation of the feelings of the people with whom we are contending? I hope the House will pardon me if I enter into detail on this matter. I do not know whether the House will agree with my conclusions or not, but I know it will not resent my citing our own acknowledged standards on a subject of so stupendous importance. The Military Red-book, to which I have referred, dealing with the property of the enemy, states—

> "The general principles of the customs of war applicable to the enemy's property are shortly these. The object of war is compensation for an injury. To attain this object it is lawful to take from the enemy everything that conduces to his means of resistance, but it is unlawful to do his property any intentional injury which does not tend to bring the war to an end."

I maintain that I have made my point. These things have not tended to bring the war to an end. In the month of November two striking events occurred. One was that on the 16th there appeared an eloquent, touching, and powerful letter in *The Times* from the pen of the right hon. the Member for Montrose Burghs. The public mind was then roused to the gravity of the issue to an extent to which it had never formerly reached, although for months the process had been going on.

I do not say for a moment that there was a causal connection between the publication of that letter and the despatch of Lord Roberts's, but two days later, on the 18th of November, there came a despatch from Lord Roberts in which he said there appeared to be some "'misunderstanding" with reference to the burning of farms. That despatch is consolatory in one sense, but not in another. With whom was the misunderstanding? And what happened during the currency of this misunderstanding for five awful months? We know that the territory of the Republics was laid waste, and that the extent of the devastation is not even now known to the Secretary of State for War. Let me read the text of Lord Roberts's Order to his troops:—

> "As there appears to be some misunderstanding with reference to the burning of farms and the breaking of dams the Commander-in-Chief wishes the following to be the line on which the general officers commanding are to act. No farm is to be burned except for an act of treachery"—

Why was not that said at the beginning?—

> "or when troops have been fired on from premises"—

Why was not that said at the beginning?—

> "or as punishment for breaking telegraph or railway lines, or when they have been used as bases of operation for raiding, and then only with the direct consent of the general officer commanding, which is to be given in writing. The mere fact of a burgher being absent on commando is on no account to be taken as a reason for the burning of his house."

Why was not all this said at the beginning? Will any man in his senses say that that letter was not addressed to people who had misunderstood the Commander-in-Chief's orders, and had committed these acts which he, months after the events, was telling them were not within the scope of their duty? I decline to believe that the British soldier loves this work. It has been productive of untold misery, and I can use no language descriptive of it stronger than that employed by Lord Roberts himself in his despatch of 14th December: "They are ruinous to the country, and entail endless suffering on the burghers and their families." I agree that the results of the proclamations were ruinous, and entailed endless suffering on the burghers and their families. But why was the real intention of these proclamations only explained five months after they were issued and when havoc and destruction had largely done their work? Will any man pretend that these instances—even single instances of ruinous destruction will not be imprinted on the mind and memory of the Dutch race as a whole? I say that these practices carried out under these orders, and for which these orders were the legal or *quasi*-legal authority, were contrary to the law of nations and the laws of war, as well as (what we recognise in our hearts) hateful in the sight of God and man.

Mr. Speaker, do not let us think for a moment that we can appeal to history in declaring that the necessities of war recommend or justify these practices. They take us back to another scene. Their policy is the policy of Lord Cornwallis at the time when Washington was in the severest straits, and when he was struggling against a certain apathy which was creeping over the hearts of the American nation. What was it that made Washington's troops swell in numbers, and drew men from every State in America to his flag? It was this, that Lord Cornwallis pursued the policy of devastation and burning of homesteads to such a degree that Washington, whose forces were well-nigh decimated, found himself again in possession of a large army. It is so all over the world. Men of the same race will not be treated contrary to every rule that should prevail among civilised mankind without solidarity of feeling, conscience, and sympathy being quickly realised among the race as a whole. It is said that we want to extinguish a nationality. I fear that these practices have gone far to create a nationality. Then Lord Roberts was entirely mistaken —I agree that it was an honest mistake— as to the effect that was going to be produced by his proclamations. This matter has, in a certain sense, a sadly humorous aspect. I would point out to the House that in his proclamation to the Dutch population on 14th September Lord Roberts said—

> "If any former doubts remain in the minds of the burghers as to Her Britannic Majesty's intention they should be dispelled by the permanent manner in which the country is being occupied by Her Majesty's forces."

Think of this permanent manner of occupation! Nine months after an attenuated line of communications had been made to Pretoria, and after these territories had been annexed on paper, we have the Boer forces a thousand miles to the south-east and seven hundred miles to the south, and the towns of Cape Town and Port Elizabeth in unrest and alarm as to the people supposed to have been annexed months before. So much for the permanent manner of occupation. But this brings me to say that there is something far deeper under these proclamations, and that is the cardinal blunder with regard to the launching of them. An annexation which is not effective in fact is inoperative in law. Military occupation is the subject of many *dicta* in treatises on international law. I will refer first to that of Mr. Hall, and this is how he speaks of the matter—

> "Rights which are founded upon mere force reach their natural limit at the point where force ceases to be efficient. They disappear with it; they reappear with it; and in the interval they are non-existent. If, moreover, neither the legitimate Sovereign of a territory nor an invader holds a territory as against another by the actual presence of force, so that in this respect they are equal, the presumption must be that the authority of the legitimate owner continues to the exclusion of such rights as the invader acquires by force. As a matter of fact, except in a few cases which stand aside from the common instances of extension of the rights of occupation over a district, of which part only has been touched by the occupying troops, the enforcement of those rights through a time when no troops are within such distance as to exercise actual control, and still more the employment of inadequate forces, constitute a system of terrorism, not of annexation, grounded upon no principle, and only capable of being maintained because an occupying army does not scruple to threaten and to inflict penalties which no Government can impose upon its own subjects."

I now go to the Manual of Military Law, which deals with military occupation in brief but emphatic language thus—

> "An invader is said to be in military occupation of so much of a country as is wholly abandoned by the forces of the enemy."

Let the House apply these elementary rules to the South African case. What was it? It was the case of one slender line of communications to Pretoria, and the launching from Pretoria of a paper proclamation annexing a territory as large as France. The Military Manual continues—

> "The occupation must be real, not nominal; a paper occupation is infinitely more objectionable in its character and effects than a paper blockade."

Now, that is what has been done. We have annexed where we cannot rule. We have occupied on paper where our forces were not on the spot; and there was far more reason, at certain junctures of the war, for the Boer generals annexing the entire Cape Colony on the same theory than there has been for our annexing the entire Transvaal. But what has been the effect? It has been rather remarkable. If you annex on paper, you must maintain these paper rights. The result has been that the occupants of the territory so nominally annexed got into an impossible condition—they became rebels on paper, and having turned foreign subjects into rebels, you have placed the entire population in such a position that they must be either rebels to one Power or traitors to the other. I submit, as a proposition both in law and in common sense, that that is a policy which cannot be maintained. It is the policy of this annexation—this premature and paper annexation, with all its corollary of trouble and entanglement—which I protest against as contrary to acknowledged law. It is this position to which you drove the population, of being between the upper and the nether millstone, of being rebels to one Power or traitors to another, that impelled every hesitating man or boy to take up arms, and aroused the active intervention and help of those of the Dutch race beyond the bounds of the Republics. The total misconception of the rights of our antagonists and our rights as combatants runs deeply into the question, it has much to do with the existing discontent in South Africa and with frustrating our latest efforts towards a settlement, and it may cost us—I wish to put it in as mild language as possible—the loss of one of the fairest portions of His Majesty's dominions. It is this total misapprehension of the relative positions of the two parties to this contest that appears to have even tainted the negotiations with Botha. On the subject of amnesty, just think of how we have misconceived the situation! How different might have been our position if we had recognised that these people had a right in law, which we were bound and entitled to maintain to this hour, to be treated on equal terms as active combatants! Do not let us make a mistake here. We have had examples in America in regard to amnesty. Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen on the Front Bench talk as if we had had no experience in this country of the policy of amnesty. What happened in regard to Canada? We had a rebellion there, and a few of the leaders were transported to the Bermudas. The illegality of that was discovered, and those leaders were recalled, and practically one and all who had taken part in the rebellion were amnestied. Why should we make any distinction—why not give amnesty to all alike, whether loyalists or disloyalists? The fact is we have gone through all this before. We have had the same arguments. We have had the loyal English population in Canada declaiming against every effort to exercise a large and wise hearted forgiveness to those of the French race who had risen up in rebellion. And it was the same in regard to property. I am for amnesty all round; and I am in favour of rebuilding and complete restoration, and no higgling or huxtering about loans. If the early part of my observations are well-founded in law, observe the awful position in which we stand. In defiance of the laws of war and of the law of nations, certain property has been destroyed. Is it not our duty and interest to close up that claim and restore, with a generous hand, that which was illegally destroyed? To grant loans to rebuild what was destroyed by fire contrary to the laws of war and the laws of nations! How contemptible it looks. Let there be complete restoration! Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen need not be afraid in regard to any ill-feeling that may be caused by this complete restoration—this wiping out of the distinction between loyalists and rebels. Here is what Mr. Goldwin Smith says on the point in regard to the Canadian rebellion—

> "The passions of the Civil War for a moment revived when an Act was passed awarding compensation to those whose property had suffered in the repression of the rebellion."

Mr. Thomas Shaw.

Just as now—

> "This the Tories took to be payment of rebels. They dropped their loyalty, as Tories are apt to do when Liberals are in power, stoned the Governor General, Lord Elgin, who had assented to the Bill, and burned the Parliament House at Montreal. But Lord Elgin, calmly wise, and well sustained at home, restored peace."

Therefore, let us not be afraid of this feeling of the English loyalists in South Africa. It is not a sign of despair at any point of these negotiations that they are hostile to any line of policy; it may, indeed, be a note of hope. Lord Elgin, calmly wise and well sustained at home, restored peace. That is what I want. I want peace restored in reference to a situation which is greater in extent and more fertile of possible disturbance than it ever was in the Canadian rebellion. I want peace restored on the lines which I have stated to the House, and which I think are recommended by a not inapt historical parallel. Then, in the situation of the moment, was there anything extreme asked for by Botha when he requested that there should be an advisory elective assembly to act alongside of the Executive Government? This demand was far within what was actually granted in the Canadian case. We had these same questions and these same troubles raised in Canada before Lord Durham went out and brought home that Report which has rendered his name illustrious in English history. Lord Durham said—

> "The great objection to any Government of an absolute kind is, that it is palpably of a temporary nature; that there is no reason to believe that its influence during the few years that it would be permitted to last, would leave the people at all more fit to manage themselves; that, on the contrary, being a mere temporary institution, it would be deficient in that stability which is the great requisite of Government in times of disorder. There is every reason to believe that a professedly irresponsible Government would be the weakest that could be devised."

What hon. Gentlemen opposite are apparently contending for is the weakest form of government for distracted South Africa that could possibly be devised. I want the strongest. I want a trust in these people who are of an alien race. There was the same complexity in Canada, but under wise and free civil government the reconciliation of the two races was gradually accomplished. There is, far more than the mere question of flags, deep down this great root problem, how the Dutch and the English are to dwell in amity and concord in that portion of His Majesty's dominions. I want to see done in South Africa what was done in Canada. I want to have a full and free amnesty, and properties fully restored. I want Botha's elective assembly accepted, and that without delay. I cite in favour of all these things the precedent of Canada and the report of Lord Durham, which said that at the root of all such troubles is the question of the apparent impossibility of the fusion of the races. I plead, finally, for a different spirit in which we approach these matters. I wish to see a lull in this outbreak of national passion and national pride and a better spirit, more in accord with our highest ideas, both as a military and as a civilised Power. The cost of it all is in one sense a side issue, yet it staggers the mind. The Boers have, it is said, 20,000 men in the field, at an expense to us of one and a quarter millions sterling per week. Think what that means. It means that we are paying £3,200 per annum to quell each single Boer soldier, man and boy. But whatever the war cost, if you desire its effects to be lasting or to be for good or healing, it is necessary that these two races should be able to dwell together. Here is a problem vaster, subtler, more enduring than a passing wager of battle or bout of arms. We may wave flags till we are tired; we may cheer our gallant soldiers until the lungs give way; but within the heart of our people one great uneasiness grows and deepens—an uneasiness lest we, having forsaken the ways of mercy, have lost the path of honour. Unconditional surrender or nothing: this is not statesmanship, this is not policy: its failure is writ large in these negotiations, and it will fail again. I plead for what in my mind and heart I believe to be a more excellent way—a present and a fuller clemency, and a future and enduring peace.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) said he should not have intervened in this debate but that he found his sense of historical accuracy somewhat outraged by what he might call the superficial and superheated treatment that this subject had received from the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite. The country had been given to understand that our conduct of operations in South Africa was unprecedented. The word "unprecedented" had a very comforting and conclusive sound to those who had not studied history, or to those who, like the hon. and learned Gentleman who had just sat down, knew the history, but preferred to regard it either in the light of an inconvenient witness or as a partisan ally. The hon. and learned Gentleman claimed that our conduct of the operations in South Africa had violated the laws of nations; he stated that they were tainted with illegality, and said they had aroused the horror of all civilised nations.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Except Turkey.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE said that so far from these operations being unprecedented, they were sanctioned by the highest authorities on international law. The hon. and learned Gentleman had quoted the example of Germany, and cited the opinion of Mr. Hall, an authority, no doubt, but not a conclusive authority, on the conduct of Germany in placing hostages on trains going through hostile parts of the country. If the House would allow him, he would tell them briefly what Germany actually did—he was not concerned with defending such operations, but simply referred to them to show that the present operations in South Africa were by no means unprecedented.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): You will find any amount of precedents in Ireland.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE: The Germans found in 1870–1 that the only way to preserve their lines of communications was by inflicting condign punishment upon the districts in which they were interfered with. That was shown by the instructions issued by the German generals. (The hon. Member then quoted passages from regulations and orders to show that the Germans adopted the same methods as had been made use of in South Africa.) The practice in the United States, he said, was the same. In order to deal with the lawless bands who made raids on small parties along the lines of communications, General Sheridan gave orders for the destruction of villages, the burning of barns and mills, and the seizure of stock.

MR. FLYNN: Nothing about farmhouses.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE said he was not concerned with defending this policy. He merely wished to point out that these events were not unprecedented, but had occurred over and over again in the most recent history of the most civilised nations of the world. The hon. and learned Gentleman opposite was entirely wrong in the inference which he drew from the fact that the rules of war laid down that "undefended houses should not be attacked." That simply meant that undefended houses should not be shelled or fired upon, which was a very different thing to destroying houses from which attacks had proceeded, after the inhabitants, especially the women and children, had been removed, so that no loss of life could result. That was a point which the hon. and learned Gentleman had overlooked. Of course the British soldier did not love this work, but in times of war, as in times of peace, we had sometimes to perform duties which were repugnant to our feelings, and it was not fair to infer that the British soldiers had been carrying out these matters with any other feelings than distaste. It had been said that this must bring ruin and desolation on many; and of course that was so, but war could not be carried on with kid gloves. No one regretted more than he the severe measures which had to be taken, but, as Lord Roberts had found it impossible to prevent these attacks on the lines of communications without having recourse to methods sanctioned by the highest authorities in war, the British soldier must pocket his feelings and carry on operations in the only way which would bring the war to an end. He would conclude by quoting one of the rules laid down for the government of the army of the United States in the field. He took the case of the United States because he believed it would be more agreeable to hon. Gentleman below the gangway opposite, who had many reasons to be grateful to that country. One of those rules declared that "the more vigorously war is pursued the better it is for humanity. Sharp wars are brief." All this outpouring of sentiment was doing nothing to hasten the end of the operations. We must work with a firm and unbending hand, so that both Dutch and English in South Africa might know that we meant business.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) said whatever were the views of hon. Members on this grave and sad subject—and he was aware that some were very deep and bitter—he thought that the speech which had been made by the hon. Gentleman the member for Hawick Burghs would have a vast influence in bringing home to the people and the country the sad state of affairs. Having regard to the gravity of the position he desired only to dwell upon the last chapter of the history of the war—the negotiations entered into between Lord Kitchener and General Botha. He saw in those negotiations the same failure on the part of the Government to realise the importance of the question, and to grasp the patent facts. He thought the attitude which the Government had taken up was an impossible one, and that the terms which they thought General Botha would accept were based on a misconception. He was surprised that Lord Kitchener was left without guidance in such negotiations, and the result was that the country found itself in a more hopeless situation than would otherwise have been the case so far as peace was concerned than if no negotiations had taken place. It seemed to him that the Government were content to "muddle on." The gravest fact of the situation was that the opinions and knowledge of men upon the spot were disregarded.

The speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary on a previous occasion finding fault with the men who were conducting the negotiations was to his mind most impolitic; whatever might be their faults, the House would be unanimous in condemning the language which had been used by the right hon. Gentleman. It was lamentable to find that the prevailing character of the negotiations was that the terms increased in severity according to the distance from the field of operations. The terms of Sir Alfred Milner and of Lord Kitchener, who knew the conditions and the country, were far more lenient than those offered by the right hon. Gentleman. It was most remarkable. Lord Kitchener, with a full knowledge of what was demanded, and the condition of the army, urged that the transition stage should be as short as possible, and that the Crown Colony system should be practically non-existent. And hon. Members must remember that Crown Colony government to the Boers meant the revival and renewal of traditions to which they were most opposed, and which carried to them most bitter memories. Lord Kitchener gave sound advice, yet instead of taking it the Colonial Secretary substituted only vague promises. As to compensation for the burning of farms, after the statement of the hon. and learned Member, it was most surprising that the Government could not see the necessity for giving full and generous compensation. He held in his hand the testimony of the hon. and gallant Member for South Glamorgan—who, unfortunately, was unable to be present on account of ill health—which, to his mind, conclusively showed that farm burning was carried on unnecessarily and with painful results. The hon. Member for South Glamorgan said—

> "It is the burning of the homestead without cause that I protest about. It is this burning of farms and houses, and the turning of women and children out on the veldt that is doing so much mischief."

The hon. Member belonged to the Government side of the House, and he would not speak in that way unless he felt it necessary to bring the position home to the country and the Government. The hon. and gallant Member added—

> "It is not worthy of us, and at the first opportunity I shall raise my voice against it in another place."

Full and ample compensation should be given for these things. The Colonial Secretary in his speech had stated his reasons for offering a loan instead of a gift. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the Boers had burned as many farms as the British. He considered that statement fantastic, and attached no credence whatever to it. He had not been able to discover any authenticated cases of farm burning on the part of the Boers. The right hon. Gentleman said that if we gave compensation to the farmers we must give compensation to the mines. Had the mines been destroyed? Were the owners of the mines destitute as the farmers were? With regard to the question of the loan, how were these unfortunate farmers to find security when their houses were burned and their stock taken away? Lord Kitchener and Sir Alfred Milner had seen the absolute necessity of giving compensation, and the Government in this matter might have been more generous. Looking at it as a mere matter of business, a fortnight's cost of the war would be more than sufficient to provide the necessary compensation, and such payment would do much to establish confidence between the two nations which had to live together.

With regard to the amnesty, the negotiations showed something for which the Boers had always been distinguished—their attachment to each other. He thought it a very curious inauguration of the new *regime* we hoped for that we should haggle over terms. He must say for himself that he respected the Boers not only for fighting but for fighting to the death sooner than accept the terms offered to them. The Secretary for the Colonies had confessed that the spirit which animated the Government in their action was that they should not be thought weak. A strong Government could afford to disregard that. The right hon. Gentleman said we must be just to the loyalists? Who were these loyalists? The Secretary for War said that those who were not believers in Sir Alfred Milner were disloyal. The hon. Member thought that statement had done an enormous amount of harm in South Africa.

It was sometimes said that we must not give in. We had reduced these petty Republics to the utmost destitution. We had taken everything away from the Boers, and they were absolutely homeless. Surely we could afford to be generous. We had robbed them of everything. [Cries of "No," and "Robbed them?"] He apologised, and withdrew the word, which escaped him, but we had taken everything away from them except their honour, and that would remain with them for ever. He would like to see the negotiations in different hands from those managing them at present. He believed that if Lord Salisbury and Lord Kitchener could treat directly with General Botha we should have a chance of securing peace more quickly. He could not agree with the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs that this war was an unmixed blessing. He looked upon it as one of the greatest disasters that had ever happened to this great country. If the Government were a little less positive, a little less "cocksure," to use a familiar expression, there might be a little more chance of a solution. He was surprised at the infatuation of the Government in refusing to receive suggestions from Messrs. Merriman and Sauer. That refusal would have almost as disastrous an effect as the statement that there were only two classes in South Africa—those who believed in Sir Alfred Milner and those who did not. That was playing directly into the hands of the anti-British party in South Africa.

The situation from the military point of view was very serious. It was sometimes thought that those who opposed the war actually did not care for military success. Bitterly opposed as he was to the war, if it was to go on he was anxious that we should hold our own. He wished to impress on the Government the gravity of the military situation. Of the 30,000 men sent out as reinforcements not more than 8,000 were trained. He should like to know what provision had been made by the Government for a constant stream of reinforcements, which was the very essence of the conduct of military affairs. If the Government were to continue this war, which he deeply deplored, the vigorous prosecution of it was more than ever necessary, but not by methods which Lord Roberts had to condemn and stop. The hon. Member did not think we would see peace in South Africa so long as Sir Alfred Milner was there. That was saying nothing against his personal character. What he suggested was that that gentleman should be removed to a higher post elsewhere, in order to relieve South Africa of his presence.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The hon. Member who has just sat down has not added anything to what has been previously said in discussions of this subject; and, if it were possible to allow his remarks, and also those of the hon. and learned Member who introduced the subject, to go unchallenged, I should not trouble the House this afternoon; but I feel bound to say that it is necessary for the Government to dissociate themselves, on behalf of the great majority of the House of Commons, from the views which have been expressed—views which, of course, will be telegraphed out to South Africa as if they were the views of the House of Commons. We are absolutely opposed, and I believe the great majority of the House and the country are opposed, to a good many of the expressions used this afternoon. I do not refer to those extreme suggestions with which the hon. Gentleman concluded his speech, for the removal of Sir Alfred Milner from South Africa, the general surrender on every point in dispute during the negotiations, backed by the profession that he was going to show his loyalty and patriotism by wishing our troops every success in the field, while asserting that the latest reinforcements sent out were unworthy to represent this country in the field. But I should like to point out that the eloquent and earnest address of the hon. and learned Member for the Border Burghs, and the opinions which he expressed, and which have been backed up by the hon. Member for North Aberdeen, were absolutely contrary to the expressions used the other day by two Members on his own side of the House, both of whom told the country that the terms offered to the Boers were "generous in the extreme." Those were the words of the hon. and learned Member for Linlithgow and of the hon. and learned Member for South Shields. According to the report,

> "The hon. Member for Linlithgow said that he agreed with the previous speaker that never had such generous terms been offered by the victors to the vanquished, and he defied any student of history to contradict him."

I defy any student of history also. He was backed up by the hon. Member for South Shields, who said, in entire contradistinction to the speeches made this evening, that it was unreasonable for the Boers to expect anything like full representative government until there has been a settlement of the country. That opinion absolutely sets at naught the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member for the Border Burghs, that we should go by the precedent of Canada in this matter. It may be true that Lord Durham was in favour of granting representative Government to Canada, but he was not dealing with a country of which a great majority of the loyal population, and a very great majority of the whole of the inhabitants, had been expelled by the force of war. When the hon. and learned Gentleman proposes that the Boer leaders should be brought back and reinstated in a Legislative Assembly, in which there should be an unquestioned majority of those who brought about the war, I can only say, in reply, that such a policy would make this country simply ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW: I am quite sure the right hon. Gentleman does not wish to misrepresent me. That is not what I suggested. I suggested that Commandant Botha's offer should have been accepted—namely, that there should be an elective advisory body to act along with the nominated Executive. I suggested that that was the offer which should have been accepted.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. and learned Member spoke of "an elective Assembly without delay." That was his expression, and that expression will go out to South Africa and be understood as representing the views of those with whom he acts. I do not labour the point. I do no more than point out the absolute absurdity of such a suggestion. In the same way, when the hon. Member suggests that there should be a free amnesty, I think the hon. Member will look in vain in history to find a parallel for what has taken place as regards the rebels in the Cape Colony. Having no grievance whatever of their own, having the full rights of constitutional government, and even a majority in their Legislature in that colony, they proceeded across the border, and, for whatever reason, threw themselves into alliance with the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and levied war on Her Majesty. The Government have to consider the feelings of the loyalists in South Africa. We must see that we do not alienate the feelings of those loyalists who have supported us in this struggle, and what we must avoid, on the other hand, is to encourage those who might mistake concessions for weakness, and who, in consequence of such a mistake, would be inclined to a renewal of the struggle at the earliest opportunity.

Now, let me say one word on the constitutional point the hon. and learned Member raised. He spoke about annexation, but the hon. and learned Member has absolutely, if I may say so, misled the House by his argument. What did we attempt to do in regard to the Boers which we might not have done under annexation? Not only have we not treated them as rebels and traitors, but they have been allowed to go on parole to their homes after annexation, and only when that parole was broken on countless occasions did it become necessary to deport them, which is the process now adopted. It has been thought by hon. Gentlemen opposite desirable to renew the discussion which has been dealt with on several previous occasions. I believe that the Government have given the strongest pledges of the sincerity of their desire for peace by the terms which they entrusted Lord Kitchener to deliver in his final letter. The hon. and learned Member, in the course of an eloquent peroration, said he was afraid we might have lost honour in this business. I do not think it would tend to our honour as a nation to carry out the terms of peace to which he pinned his faith. I do not believe, when peace had been attained, this House would consider it redounded to our honour or credit that we had deserted our friends and those who stood by us. I do not believe in handing back the Transvaal to a body of men who would be in an uncontrolled majority, and who, therefore, would be brought into direct conflict with this country. I do not think that that would be an honourable, wise, or statesmanlike solution of the difficulty. We are earnestly desirous of peace, but it must be a peace on terms which we can recommend to the people of this country. Of course, if we had admitted from the very first that every contention of the Boer Republics was good, no war would have taken place. But the House knows what the history has been, and I can only say that the speeches made to-night have been at variance with past speeches on the other side of the House, and they are, I believe, at variance with the sentiments of the country as to the conduct of the negotiations. For that reason they cannot possibly influence the Government in the work which we have in hand, but we must dissociate ourselves from them. We have full confidence in Sir A. Milner, We intend, with every desire to leave open the path for negotiations when the time comes, or when it pleases the Boer leaders to come to us, at the same time to make it clear that we shall carry the war through by every means in our power. For that reason we have sent out fresh troops; and I cannot but hope that the war may yet, despite all that has taken place, be brought to a speedy and honourable conclusion.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

*MR. BELL (Derby): Much has been said since the assembling of this present Parliament on the South African question and the colonies generally, but this evening I am going to direct the attention of the House to something which I consider equally as important as even the question of South Africa. The subject to which I desire to draw attention is the enormous number of accidents which occur on our railways to those employed, and it is with a view to getting the Board of Trade to administer the Act of last year in a better manner than it has been administered up to the present time that I now intervene. The Act to which I refer was placed on the Statute-book on the 1st of July last, after a Royal Commission composed of representatives of both Houses of Parliament, together with experts from both the employers and the employees in the railway service, had considered the subject and reported. This Commission was not of the ordinary, orthodox style of Commissions, but one which carried out the task assigned to it in a workmanlike and satisfactory manner, and carried it out in a very short space of time, concluding with recommendations which were agreed to unanimously. This Report, which hon. Members of the late Parliament have been able to see, but which hon. Members who, like myself, are new to the House of Commons, have not had the opportunity of perusing, and probably are not familiar with, shows that the members of the Commission were unanimous in their opinion. I will quote a paragraph from their Report. They themselves have written—

> "Having carefully considered the facts and figures above set out, we have come to the conclusion that the deaths occurring and the injuries sustained amongst railway servants are unnecessarily great in number, and can, by means of authoritative action be diminished. If we are right in this conclusion, we feel sure that every class of your Majesty's subjects will desire to see full and immediate action to diminish the preventable loss of life and injuries sustained by a deserving portion of the community."

I think that is a very definite and emphatic opinion, and it is the more remarkable from the Commission having among its members representatives of the railway companies. I will draw the attention of the House to another paragraph which, to my mind, is the strongest and most important of the whole lot. They say that—

> "Lives that could be saved are lost, and men are injured unnecessarily. Ought the State to remain quiescent, and leave it to chance or to the will of individuals to apply a remedy? Even if the remedy is left in private hands, surely an obligation of a positive character should be imposed upon them to effect it."

The result of that Report was long discussions in this House, and a Bill was introduced by the late President of the Board of Trade, the present Home Secretary.

That Bill was one of considerable strength, and was very positive in some of its clauses, but, owing to the enormous opposition offered by representatives of the railway companies and private wagon owners, both inside and outside this House, the right hon. Gentleman the then President of the Board had to minimise, or considerably modify, the clauses in that Act. In spite of that, however, the measure, when completed, set forth a schedule enumerating twelve subjects or headings under which the Commissioners declared themselves of opinion that steps should be taken immediately to prevent accidents. These twelve subjects are very simple in themselves. First we have "brake levers on both sides of the wagons." That is a very simple matter, and one I will deal with more particularly later on. The second is "labelling wagons." Presently I will explain to the House the pernicious effect of having traffic labelled on one side only of the wagons. The third is "movement of wagons by propping and tow-roping"; the fourth, "steam or other power-brakes on engines." These things appear to be very simple, as I said, in the case of brake levers on both sides of wagons. One would hardly believe that it would be necessary for an Act of Parliament to be passed to compel railway companies or private wagon owners to label wagons on both sides, or even—in the case of companies—to adopt such appliances as power brakes in order to prevent accidents on their railways. The fifth subject is "Lighting of stations or sidings when shunting operations are frequently carried on after dark." It is needless to say, Mr. Speaker, that anyone who believes or would listen to the statements put forward by the railway companies inside and outside the House would hardly credit that it is necessary to have an Act of Parliament to compel them to fix up in their yards the lights that are essential to enable the men who carry on these dangerous avocations to do their work with the highest degree of safety. The sixth subject is "Protection of point rods and signal wires and position of ground levers working points." That is another simple matter, and the House will agree that it ought not to be necessary to have either rules of the Board of Trade or Acts of Parliament to compel employers' precautionary measures in connection with point rods, signal wires, and so forth. Then, the seventh subject is "Position of offices and cabins near working lines"; the eighth, "marking of fouling points"; and the ninth, "construction and protection of gauge glasses." Many a man has lost his eyesight in consequence of the bursting of a gauge glass. These are preventable accidents, and I maintain that the Board of Trade should set out in a more active way and put forth greater energy than it has done up to now in order to prevent these accidents from occurring. The tenth subject is "Arrangement of tool boxes and water gauges on engines"; the eleventh, "Working of trains without brake vans upon running lines beyond the limits of stations"; and twelfth, "Protection to permanent-way men when relaying or repairing permanent way."

Now, I submit that the enumeration of those twelve matters on which protection is required is an evidence to the Board of Trade that the workmen whose interests are in question are engaged in what is called "dangerous trades." It is a clear indication to the Board of Trade that the employers in these respects can adopt measures by which many of the accidents which would otherwise occur may be prevented. But what is the position? It is this: that notwithstanding the Act which has been in force since the 1st July, 1900, the accidents to railway servants—fatal and non-fatal—are largely on the increase. The return given in the Board of Trade Report for the last six months of the year 1900 has not yet been published. The last I have is for the half-year ending 30th June, 1900. Now, I find from perusing this report—without going into the whole of the details—that accidents have been very largely on the increase, and I find, on comparing the monthly reports from the *Labour Gazette* with this report for the half-year ending 30th June, 1900, that the fatal accidents were 33½ per cent. higher than in 1896. Imagine that, Sir! The fatal accidents have increased on railways to the extent of 33½ per cent. in five years. Non-fatal accidents have increased by 11½ per cent. Now these accidents, as no doubt a large number of Members are aware, were principally amongst three or four grades or sections of those employed on railways. I have taken out here a short schedule of the four grades which occupy, perhaps, the foremost place, so far as risk is concerned, on railways. Take first the grade of shunters. There are only 9,244 of these men employed, and of these in the six months ending 30th June last year 23 were killed and 347 injured. Goods guards come next—second on the list—and of these there are 14,720 on our railways. There were 20 killed in the six months and 436 injured. Firemen are third on the list, numbering 21,821, and of these 13 were killed and 266 injured. Then come the drivers, of whom there are 22,237, and of these 12 were killed and 202 injured. These four grades combined give a total of 68,022, and of that number 68 were killed and

1,251 injured during the short period of six months. I know there is very great objection on the part of railway companies to State interference, and I am not here to advocate anything that is arbitrary, even against railway companies, but I do maintain this, that the State has a distinct right to interfere where it can prevent accidents, fatal or otherwise, to His Majesty's subjects.

Let us compare for a moment the case of the mechanics who are employed by these same railway companies with that of the railway employees. The mechanics number 68,661, or 639 more than the men in the four grades I have enumerated. Of these 68,661 mechanics employed 10 only were killed and 19 injured in the same period that 68 of the railwaymen were killed and 1,251 injured. Now, Sir, what I want particularly to point out here is that the mechanics, or those employed in the works of the companies, are subject to statutory supervision. They are under the Home Office, and the Home Office inspectors can at any time when they think it desirable, or when they feel inclined, go to the factory and inspect them, even on anonymous reports or complaints. It is evident that this inspection is not without its effect in preventing accidents, when we find that with a higher total number of men employed than the men in the four grades I have referred to there have only been 10 killed and 19 injured in the six months. I maintain, therefore, that I am justified in insisting that the Board of Trade should be active, and utilise to the fullest extent the powers conferred upon it by the Act of 1900 for the Prevention of Accidents.

There is one thing I want to bring prominently to the attention of the President of the Board of Trade, and it is that since the passing of the Act at the commencement of the last half-year the responsibility which has rested upon the Board of Trade has been greater than it was previously. Unless something is done by the Department to reduce or diminish this large number of accidents occurring amongst railwaymen, the responsibility for this enormous loss of life and injury to limb, or at any rate for its increase, will rest with the Board of Trade. There are various things which should be done, and many of them should be done immediately, and I trust that after calling the right hon. Gentleman's attention to them it will not be necessary for me at a later stage of the session to repeat what I am saying here to-night. Some people—even Members of this House—who are interested in the railways will very likely say that they welcome complaints from their men, and are always ready to pay attention to them. Sir, I do believe that many hon. Members of this House, who hold positions on the directorates of the various companies, and many railway directors outside, do sincerely desire to hear complaints, and respond to them, but we men know how difficult it is for complaints to reach their ears. There are such a large number of superintendents and officials of various degrees through whom the complaints have to pass that they very often do not reach the high authorities. Complaints have to run the gauntlet of crowds of interested officials, who throw every kind of obstacle in the way of their reaching those persons for whom they are intended and who would have the power to redress the grievances. I have here several instances, of which I will only mention a few, where complaints have been made sometimes by the men themselves and sometimes through their organisation. But they have too often been ignored by the officials of the companies, accidents in this way being allowed to continue. I am not going to particularise any of the large number of companies here to-night. I do not propose to specialise any of them, but it is necessary to give a few typical cases, and I must, therefore, mention the railways; but it should be understood that the general principle and my remarks apply to one and all of the railways throughout the kingdom. It is true that there are some railways which give more attention to these things than others; it is also true that some give better attention to the Board of Trade recommendations and to various other things with a view to reducing the number of accidents than others. In fact, the Report of the Royal Commissioners themselves states that there are some companies who are ready to comply with the recommendations of the Board of Trade, whilst others ignore them, consequently it is necessary that the Board should be active so as to allow no negligence in these matters, and so as to secure everything being done to reduce the number of accidents to railway servants.

I take a few typical cases of what has recently occurred. One case I am about to mention is that of a man who has been seriously injured, in fact I believe he has since died of his injuries. I believe notice had been sent to the railway company, or to the general manager of the company, calling his particular attention to this class of danger in 1899, but I understand it has not been remedied at all. I am told indeed that no attention at all has been given to the matter. The complaint is as to a particular class of engine that is employed on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway. These engines have on them pumps instead of injectors for inserting water into the boilers. These pumps have sometimes to be attended to after the engine has perhaps climbed up a steep incline with a heavy train. The driver is obliged to use all the steam power he has till he has got to the summit of the incline. Very often he is not able to put water into the boiler until he has got to the summit, and it is then very often found that the pumps are full of air. It is necessary to let this air out before the pump can get to the water. The pet-cocks of the pumps are sometimes not connected with the footplate, which is desirable in order to avoid the necessity for the engine driver to walk along the framing of the engine to open the cocks in order to let out the air. Engines on other railways with these pumps have a connection to the footplate, and the driver can open the pumps without leaving the footplate. Well, the top of the framing along which the men have to walk is less than three inches wide, and the pumps have to be frequently attended to, otherwise they will not work. The attention of the general manager of the company was called to this so far back as 28th March, 1899, but no notice was taken of the matter. The men had to continue walking round the framing of the engine, and in the case to which I have referred the fireman, after attending to the pet-cock of the pump, fell from the framing of the engine on to the ballast, which caused concussion of the brain. He thus sustained very serious injury' and I believe that he has died in consequence of his injuries. I find also that there are various other things—the details of which, however, I will not trouble the House with—which ought to be put before the House. I hope to be able to put them before the President of the Board of Trade in another way, so that the matter, at any rate, may not escape his attention and be overlooked, and so that the engines may be inspected or examined by the Board of Trade.

I may say that the reason I make these remarks here this evening is in order that the Board of Trade may do something, and that speedily, in the direction of putting a stop to the danger which this case demonstrates. I know it is very objectionable to railway companies to have inspectors examining into their arrangements, but I must say that I fail to see why railway companies should be exonerated, or any of their plant, yards, stations, premises, or anything else should be exonerated from statutory inspection any more than the premises or works of other employers' factories, shops, and things of that kind. Every other employer has to have his plant, machinery, shop, factory, or foundry subjected to State interference, and I fail to see why railway companies, of all employers in the country, should be exempted from this interference. The only reason I can find for it is that railway directors perhaps have been rather more powerful in this House than other employers, and, objecting to interference when it has been proposed, have been successful in getting themselves exempted. I find that a shipowner cannot even build his ship, cannot launch his ship, cannot load his ship, cannot man his ship, or cannot even feed his men, or berth his men, without being subjected to State interference. If such is the case with regard to ships, surely we have a right to expect to see that the State should interfere in the case of another dangerous calling and should see whether or not shunting yards are in a proper condition and are fit for the persons who have to work in them? Surely we can expect the State to intervene and ascertain through their own officials whether, for instance, there is sufficient light in this, that, or the other yard. Surely we can expect the State to see whether obstacles such as point-rods, signal wires, and ground levers for working points, which are known in the railway service as death-traps, are sufficiently removed out of the way of those who have to work in the yards. It is in this direction that I ask the President of the Board of Trade to do all he can to render the work of railwaymen less dangerous, and to do it speedily. I readily admit this, that had not the General Election taken place when it did, probably something more would have been done. I do not for a moment say that there has been any laxity on the part of the right hon. Gentleman the present President of the Board of Trade. I know that he has lately succeeded the present Home Secretary in the position he now holds. The present Home Secretary it was, practically, who brought about the measure as to the administration of which I am now referring. The right hon. Gentleman was familiar with the Act right through, and, probably, had he remained at the Board of Trade, he, through his knowledge and experience, would have been more active than the present right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, who is not so familiar with these subjects. No doubt it was necessary for him to spend some little time in acquainting himself with the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular subject to which I am now drawing his attention, but I think that since last October, now six months gone, the right hon. Gentleman has had sufficient time to give effect to the provisions of the Act. I hope he will now give practical effect, and give that speedily, to the measure which has given him so much power.

Then there is the question of steam or other power brakes on engines. I desire to say a word or two on this, as the question of providing power brakes on engines is one that should not be delayed. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, in reply to a question I addressed to him a week or two ago, said that the railway companies were doing all they could to give effect to the schedule of the Act. That may be correct so far as it applies to some companies, but it is incorrect so far as it applies to others. I venture to suggest that unless pressure is brought to bear upon them the managers of railway companies will not put themselves out of the way at all in order to give full effect to the Act of 1900. I have here a report as to engines, ten in number, turned by the Great Northern of Ireland Railway since the passing of this Act out of their repairing shops. In many cases the engines were in the shops for general repairs, but yet they have all been turned out without the power brakes specified in the Act. Now, if the railway companies are so ready and willing to put the Act into effect without pressure from the Board of Trade, why, I ask, did the Great Northern Railway of Ireland turn out ten engines they had had in the shops for repairs without trying to apply to them the power brakes referred to? The result of the engines being turned out without power brakes has been illustrated by one typical incident which I will mention. An accident occurred on the 9th of last month through an engine working a ballast train running into a platelayers' bogey a mile south of Portadown. It went into a gang of platelayers, and one man was killed and another was injured so seriously that he is not expected to recover. I am told that this accident would not have occurred had this engine possessed the power brake. That is only one case out of a large number I could mention, but I am not going to trouble the House with a great number of details. If the President of the Board of Trade or the House desire to have the details I shall be very pleased to submit them, but I know they do not. Therefore I would simply mention one or two typical cases under each of the headings I have here, in order to show the House how prevention can be applied in these cases, and how the present absence of regulations operates to the detriment of railway men. I find in regard to shunters—shunting yards and shunting operations—that in many cases—in the majority of instances I am sorry to say—signal wires, point rods, and so forth are allowed in between the lines on which the men have to carry out the shunting operations. Shunting operations even with the best of point rods and with all obstacles out of the way are dangerous enough, and I do hope that something will be done to compel the railway companies to remove these obstacles out of the way. The result of these obstacles being allowed to continue on the lines in the shunting yard is very lamentable. In the day time it is bad enough, but imagine a man working in a shunting yard at night time when he has to walk astraddle, as it were, in order to avoid point rods and signal wires, and when he has to dodge out of the way of ground levers, holding his light turned upon the wagons he is shunting with one hand, whilst in the other he holds his shunting pole, six feet long! How is it possible that he can see all the obstacles in his way and take necessary precautions to avoid them? Therefore I think the companies should be compelled to take these things away. As long as they do not remove them themselves, the Board of Trade should step in and require them to do it.

Then there are other matters which, I claim, should come under State supervision. There is the question of putting lads to do the important work of shunting. I have here a report which refers to a youth of sixteen years of age being employed by the South-Eastern and Chatham and Dover Railway at Tunbridge as late as the 17th of February last. An accident occurred, and the coroner's jury, and all the evidence, in fact, condemned the employment of a boy of sixteen years of age in such dangerous work as that of shunting. In this case I maintain that the Board of Trade ought to take the responsibility on itself and declare that lads like this should no longer be permitted to follow this dangerous occupation. It may be said that boys as well as men were allowed to work in other dangerous trades, such as in mines, but in those cases the State interferes, and I do not see why they should not interfere in this case. I do not think I ought to specialise or particularise any shunting yard, for almost every railway in the kingdom is a sinner more or less in this direction. They do not light their yards sufficiently or protect the men by removing from their paths the obstacles to which I have referred. Therefore, I maintain that the Board of Trade should intervene, and if they have not a sufficient staff to enable them to do the necessary inspecting work, the staff should be increased so that the Act of 1900 may be put efficiently into operation. I find that the Irish railways are perhaps the greatest offenders in connection with this subject. [Hear, hear! from the Nationalist Members.] I find from reports I have from the Great Southern and Western, the Midland Great Western and the Great Northern of Ireland—on these railways nearly the whole of the shunting yards are badly lit and some not lit at all, and that so far as protection of point rods and signal wires and so on is concerned, such protection is almost out of the question. I maintain that the present number of officers that the Board of Trade have at their disposal is absolutely inadequate to do the work of protecting the life and limb of the many thousands of men employed on these and other railways. To my mind, the two sub-inspectors employed by the Board of Trade would be insufficient even to look after the Irish railways, to say nothing of those in this country. There is another matter of great importance, if not of the greatest importance, to which I desire to call attention, and that is the necessity of doing something to get rid of the obnoxious shunting pole upon our railways. It is very much nursed and cherished by the railway companies, and two or three weeks ago, in reply to a question put by me, the President of the Board of Trade said that nothing was being done in this direction, but that they had not lost sight of it. But they have had it "in sight" for the last twenty years, and I hope that we are not going to keep it in sight at such a long distance in the future. The number of accidents which happen to railwaymen through the shunting pole cannot be calculated by the return in the Blue-book, because the accidents are given there as occurring through coupling and uncoupling operations.

There are scores of accidents which happen to men employed in our shunting yards which do not arise from coupling or uncoupling, but which take place through the men having to carry this six-foot shunting pole about with them to do their work. To my mind, to require a man to move about in a shunting yard coupling and uncoupling wagons, with a six-foot shunting pole in one hand and a light in the other, is like requiring a soldier to go into an engagement with a gun in one hand and an umbrella in the other. That might appear ridiculous to hon. Gentlemen, and no doubt it was. But it was equally ridiculous to expect a man to do shunting work with a pole six feet long in his hand. Three weeks ago a fatal accident occurred, not through the use of the coupling pole, but through it being carried when not used at the time of coupling or uncoupling. One end of the pole caught and penetrated the body of a man who was oiling his engine as the shunter passed. I claim that one accident of that description is sufficient in itself to condemn any such instrument as the shunting pole. There are plenty of automatic couplings to be selected from which are applicable to the working of our railways, and I claim that the Board of Trade, in the interest of the safety of life and limb, should insist upon the adoption of something in that direction on all our railways, and not allow the companies to adopt automatic couplings in their own way and at their own time. I could give a large number of instances of accidents through the want of automatic couplings. I have selected cases from the different railways, so that it could not be said that I had singled out one railway as an object of attack more than another. I have given you a typical case that occurred to a man, not one using the pole or engaged in the act of coupling or uncoupling, but another person altogether—and this is only one instance out of a number I could have mentioned.

I desire further to call the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the absolute necessity there is for having some system of uniformity with regard to the brake levers that you have on rolling stock. It has been laid down in the Act that brake levers shall be applied to both sides of the wagons. It is true that there are a large number of companies experimenting by putting levers on both sides of their trucks, but every company has its own idea as to a brake, and each company has its own brakes. What I wish here to draw attention to is the great danger in a lack of uniformity. In the first place I would illustrate that by pointing out that the Great Western are building twenty-ton trucks. I believe that is a step in the right direction, but I would further draw attention to the fact that instead of having a brake that is handy they have a wheel brake attached to the side of the truck. Now, I would ask hon. Members who have seen railway operations carried on to imagine the difficulty a man must be under in a shunting yard going about amongst moving wagons turning a wheel here and there. What, I would ask, are his chances either of protecting the company's property by a quick application of the brake, which is very often necessary, or even of preventing himself from stumbling and meeting with a serious accident? The Caledonian Railway have another kind of brake; the Lancashire and Yorkshire have yet another, and the Great Northern have still a different kind, and I think the majority of the companies have adopted one sort of brake or another, but they are not all alike, and in that lies the danger. The danger in a difference of brake is this; that the wagons of the different companies bearing different brakes go from one place to another; one section of employees are accustomed to use a particular description of brake, and through the necessity of the exchange of traffic which takes place on our railways men accustomed to one sort of brake may have half-a-dozen brakes from another railway to deal with of a totally different kind. When a man goes to apply a brake which is absolutely new to him, and which he has never seen before, and is totally ignorant as to how it operates, and knows nothing of its power, in applying such a brake he is likely to meet with an accident, and of that I had intended to give an illustration, but I will not go into detail now. I will give the details more fully to the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade on another occasion and in another way if he desires it. The main point that I desire to impress upon the right hon. Gentleman is the desirability of bringing about uniformity in the matter of brakes.

I come now to a very simple matter which will in itself show the House how desirous the companies and the private wagon owners are of preventing accidents on our railways. It is simply the question of labelling on each side of a wagon. These labels do not cost a large sum of money by any means. I have a very large number of them here as specimens, and I should think that many thousands of them might be got for a few pounds. I have no fault to find with the size of the labels, but what I desire to point out to the President of the Board of Trade is, that since this agitation has been going on and the Royal Commission came into existence, some of the railway companies, I am bound to admit, have done a great deal in the way of labelling the wagons on both sides, but the companies have not brought sufficient pressure to bear upon the colliery owners and upon private owners of wagons throughout the country to induce them also to label their wagons on both sides. The result is this: that of a large number of wagons which get into the shunting yard, one will be labelled on one side and another will be labelled on the opposite side, and these wagons, so mixed, will have come from different parts at different times and will be going in different directions. They have to be identified in the yard, and when they are labelled on one side only the railwayman has to creep under one to see where the next is labelled to. Shunting operations are taking place the while, and a large number of accidents take place whilst the men are going underneath a wagon or between two others to find out the destination of each. Since the passing of the Act of 1900 I find that a few colliery companies have adopted the system of labelling on both sides; but I desire to point out to the President of the Board of Trade that the system they have adopted is so useless that they might as well not have adopted it at all. I have here a number of labels bearing the address "to" or "from" certain collieries to or from "Wicker, Sheffield." That is a yard where exchange of traffic takes place between the Midland and the Great Central, and so forth. When the trucks get to "Wicker, Sheffield," they have not reached their destination, and that is where the danger exists. The wagons have to be marshalled there to be sent to the suburbs of Sheffield itself. It will not give me satisfaction until not only every wagon has been labelled to its destination and station, but even the name of the consignee has been put on both sides, so that a wagon labelled to Sheffield will go there without the railwayman having to go from one side to another to ascertain where it is to be sent to.

This is an important matter, which I hope the President of the Board of Trade will not overlook. If he does overlook it the Act will not confer the amount of benefit that it was intended it should confer, and it will not prevent the accidents it was intended it should prevent. I earnestly ask the right hon. Gentleman not to overlook this matter. I have here some sheets of names of collieries that only label their wagons on one side. I do not know that I should gain anything by particularising these collieries, but I leave it as a general question, and I hope the President of the Board of Trade will, under the powers conferred on him by the Act, notify the railway companies that after 1st May next they will be penalised in accordance with the penalties of the Act if they do not have every wagon carried by them on their lines labelled on both sides. To do this they do not require new appliances or machinery. All that is necessary is that they shall give instructions that when a man has labelled a wagon on one side he shall go round to the other side and affix a label there also, in each case giving the consignee's name. There are also a large number of other dangerous subjects that I desire particular attention to be drawn to, and I am going to specify one or two, in order that the President of the Board of Trade may take measures to put a stop to that which is a fruitful source of accidents. I wish to call his attention to the large number of lads who at present are subject to a very dangerous occupation—namely, that of lighting signal lamps. That occupation under the best of circumstances is a dangerous one, but under the actual circumstances in which the lads have to do it it is most perilous. The South-Eastern and Chatham and Dover Railway lads have to walk on the coping stones of arches to get to the signals to light the lamps. I have here a list of the cabin concerned—eight or ten of them—and I hope the President of the Board of Trade will look into the matter. As to the question I put to the right hon. Gentleman to-day, I do not say that the answer I received has not given me satisfaction. It is that he has not yet received the report of the inspecting officer who inquired into the fatal boiler explosion on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. I will leave what I had intended to say on that subject over until another day, but the question is of too great importance to be neglected, and I hope the President of the Board of Trade will not, at any rate, neglect to make full inquiries into the case. This is the second boiler explosion that has occurred, I believe, within the last twelve months—one on the Great Eastern and the other on the Lancashire and Yorkshire. From the reports of the two experts that I employed to investigate the case—an engineer and a boiler maker—so far as the explosion on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway is concerned, it is, to my mind, imperative that the Board of Trade should exercise the power now given to it and inspect not only the yards and other premises of the companies, but that some responsibility should be undertaken by the Board in the interest of public safety—leaving out of question the employees of the companies—even for the inspection of locomotive boilers. The right hon. Gentleman may examine and see whether he has, under the present Act, power to inspect locomotive boilers. I believe he has, but if he finds that that is not the case, I trust that the House will not be content until such power has been conferred on the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade should protect the interests of the public, of the employers and their workmen, and of all classes of His Majesty's subjects. The accidents I have referred to may appear to the minds of my hon. friends here as being insignificant, but a perusal of the Returns of the 30th June of last year will show that these accidents are of a very serious character. What do we find? Why, we find that out of the 1,251 non-fatal accidents which occurred in the six months to railway men, thirty-five were of the loss of legs or feet, eleven of arms or hands, seventeen of fingers or toes, six were fractures of the skull, fifty seven fractures of legs or arms, forty seven fractures of the collar-bone or ribs, and thirty-three fractures of other bones. I will content myself with enumerating these accidents, without going into the others, which are given in the tables, and which are also serious. I say that when all these legs and feet and arms and hands have been lost and fractured in one six months on our railways, to say nothing of the lives that have been lost, I trust the Board of Trade will see the necessity of exercising to the full the power now given to it. I trust that when this House comes to discuss the Board of Trade Estimates this time next year, and I may have to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman, I shall not be able in any way to criticise any laxity on his part in giving effect to the powers now reposed in him by the Act of 1900.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD of TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I do not propose to follow the hon. Member for Derby into the details of the dangerous operations he has described, the particular accidents he has referred to, or the general statistics he has cited It will probably be sufficient if I make the admission, as I do most fully make it, that everyone who has read the Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into Railway Accidents must have arrived at the conclusion that the Commission were justified in expressing the opinion that "the deaths occurring and the injuries sustained among railway employees are unnecessarily great in number, and can, by means of authoritative action, be diminished." I make that admission, as I say, most fully. But the principal object of the hon. Member for Derby seems to have been to complain that up to the present time the Board of Trade has not administered the Act passed last year as effectively as it should have done and might have done. It is to that point I will especially direct my attention. The Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act was passed last year, at the end of the session, at the end of July. The autumn holidays followed close on that, and then—as the hon. Member has himself remarked—came the General Election at the end of September, which interfered with any steps that might otherwise have been taken, and then came the change of Government, and these events all caused delay. When, however, early in November I was appointed to my present office, I endeavoured to establish an Advisory Committee, to draw up the rules contemplated by the Act in respect of the twelve scheduled subjects. There was, I admit, considerable delay in appointing that Committee, the reason of that being that I was anxious to have on the Committee representatives both of the railway companies and of the men. The railway companies, however, for reasons which I readily understood, though I did not agree with them, were unwilling to nominate representatives to sit on the Committee, because they held that if they did so it would prejudice their right to any appeals they might desire to make under the rules which the Committee was to draw up for the sanction of the Board of Trade. The negotiations with the railway companies and my endeavours to get them to nominate representatives caused much delay; and ultimately I was obliged to give up all hope of having an Advisory Committee, and I appointed the Committee from the officers of the Department, with Lord James of Hereford as chairman, that noble Lord having kindly consented to occupy that position. That Committee has sat for some time, and has been occupied with the task of drafting rules for the consideration of the Board of Trade. I am happy to say that they have now brought their labours to a conclusion. I have this morning received the draft rules they have prepared. I will take care there shall be no delay in advertising those rules and in carrying out the necessary preliminaries to final sanction being given to them. In addition to the action I have described, I may say that the Board of Trade has also by letter directed the attention of the railway companies to certain complaints as to dangerous operations referred to in the schedule to the Act. The hon. Member has himself described a good many dangerous operations, none of them, I think—or, at all events, hardly any of them—outside the scope of the schedule. The rules which have been prepared by the Committee of the Board of Trade—the draft rules—will apply to all the dangerous operations set out in the schedules of the Act of last year, and I trust that when the hon. Member has an opportunity of seeing the draft rules he will be satisfied that they will effectually carry the purposes of the Act into operation. It is only fair to say that many of the railway companies, including the most important of them, have issued instructions in respect of the twelve scheduled matters, and it will be found when the rules are promulgated that they have been practically put into operation by these companies. This will show that the Board of Trade have not been indifferent to the carrying out of the Act of last year. I can assure the hon. Member that it is the intention of the Board to administer the Act vigorously, and I trust that a year hence the result of our action will be shown in a diminished list of accidents.

*Mr. BELL inquired if the President of the Board of Trade proposed to make any addition to his staff of inspectors to see that the rules were carried out.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR replied that two additional inspectors had already been appointed, and if experience showed that their services were insufficient to carry the Act into effect, application would be made to the Treasury by the Board of Trade for permission to employ a larger staff.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I rise to make two observations on a subject which must have engaged the attention of the House. The first is that everyone in the House will agree that the hon. Member for Derby was justified in calling attention to the subject; and the appalling list of accidents he was able to bring forward, the accuracy of which, I am afraid, no one can deny, shows that this is a matter of very great importance. But I must add that I am very glad to hear from the right hon. Gentleman opposite that steps have been taken, and are now in a forward state, for the purpose contemplated, and therefore of giving effect to the Act for the first time. Unfortunately, although this Act was passed last summer, practically nothing has been done to give effect to the intention of Parliament. I quite accept and acknowledge, however, the force of some of the dilatory pleas advanced by the right hon. Gentleman—the General Election, the change of officials, the difficulty with the railway companies, and so forth. All these matters might fairly be taken into account. My object is to join in the appeal of the hon. Member for Derby—and I am sure I am addressing willing ears—that the intentions of Parliament shall be promptly and effectually carried out, and this appalling, and to a large extent aviodable, loss of life and limb prevented.

EDUCATION—REX *v.* COCKERTON.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I hope I may have a few of the minutes that remain in order to impress on the Government the urgent and redoubled necessity of doing something within the next few weeks to place upon a legal footing a great deal of the work now being done in public elementary schools. This question was urgent at half-past ten yesterday morning, before the Master of the Rolls began his judgment, but at the end of that judgment it became doubly urgent, for this reason. I do not speak as a lawyer, but after a careful examination of the judgment I am forced to the conclusion, which I think possibly will be shared by the right hon. Gentleman, that the judgment of the Master of the Rolls has not only disabled the school boards as regards higher grade and higher elementary education, but it has gone very far to endanger a great deal of what is known as ordinary elementary education in schools. The judgment of Mr. Justice Wills and Mr. Justice Kennedy was that a school board could not pay out of a school board rate for science and art teaching in schools or for elementary teaching in evening schools to persons of more than sixteen and a half years old. Mr. Justice Wills laid down that whatever was in the day school code was elementary education and could be paid for out of a school board rate in an ordinary day school so long as it was taught to persons not more than sixteen or sixteen and a half years old, but that the code issued from South Kensington was not to be regarded as elementary education, and could not be taught at the cost of the school board rate. That was the judgment that came before the Master of the Rolls, and the Master of the Rolls confirmed most of it. He confirmed the disablement of school boards from teaching science and art subjects at the cost of the school board rate, but he has gone further and questioned the right of the day school code to be regarded as the criterion as to what is elementary education and what is not. If it were possible for an auditor to surcharge a school board on the authority of Mr. Justice Wills' decision, apparently on the Master of the Rolls' decision, it is possible for an auditor to surcharge a school board for teaching cookery, sewing, or drawing, or anything else above the three R's. If the need for legislation were acute yesterday morning it is doubly acute at the present moment, and I trust we shall get a satisfactory assurance from the Government that they will take steps to legalise the position of the school boards.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): It is rather a happy thing, I think, that we have the Easter recess in which to digest this very important judgment. I have not been so rapidly able as the hon. Member to grasp the whole effect of that judgment, and I shall be very glad to have a fortnight's holiday to think it over. Of one thing I would remind him—that the Education Bill which the Government has announced its intention of bringing before the House this session will give Parliament the opportunity of dealing with the whole of this matter, and I have no doubt that when the time comes the Government will be prepared to make recommendations to Parliament. But it must be for the wisdom of Parliament itself to find a solution of these difficulties. There is another thing I can assure him. I do not think there is the slightest danger of any school which has been already established and is doing good work being under the necessity of closing its doors. With that assurance I hope hon. Members will be satisfied until the end of the Recess, and then I think the Government may be called upon, after mature deliberation, to explain the proposals which they intend to submit to Parliament.

*MR. SPEAKER: I may remind hon. Members that it is absolutely necessary that the motion should be put at or before ten minutes to seven o'clock.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.) said he regretted he would not have an opportunity of bringing forward a matter of great interest to a number of people in the West of Ireland, and, indeed, to Ireland generally. Listening to the debates which had taken place during the last few weeks it would be not unreasonably concluded that outside the Transvaal and the Orange Free State there was not a prisoner of war in existence. He would point out that for the last eighteen years two men had suffered, and were still suffering, for a crime, or an offence, which sprang out of the agrarian agitation twenty years ago.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 185; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 123.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caine, William Sproston
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, Charles Edw. H. A.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Heath, J. (Staffords., N. W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Rbt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsde
Hornby, Sir Wm. Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Fauersh.)
Hozier, Hn. Jas. Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray,) Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Parker, Gilbert
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheff'ld
Wallace, Robert
Warde, Col. C. E.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (T'unt'n
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Condon, Thomas Joseph

Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hayden, John Patrick
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Jas. F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan E.)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Haviland-Burke.

Main Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House at its rising this day do adjourn till Thursday, 18th April.

EVENING SITTING.

STANDING COMMITTEES (AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 50).

Standing Order 50 read:—"That all Bills which shall have been committed to one of the said Standing Committees shall, when reported to the House, be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a Committee of the whole House: Provided that the provisions of the Standing Order 'Consideration of a Bill as amended' shall not apply to a Bill reported to the House by a Standing Committee."

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that if any apology were needed from him for introducing this very important subject of the Amendment of Standing Orders, he begged to make it at once. He had for many years taken a deep interest in the work of the Standing Committee, and was familiar with the time in the history of Parliament when the new system was inaugurated by Mr. Gladstone, which, as he thought, wisely embodied the principle of delegation. He hoped the House would remember the circumstances under which that principle was adopted. He believed that the result of the experiment had been highly successful. The duties of Standing Committees had been confined to problems of administrative detail, and he, for his part, would strengthen those Committees; as he was quite sure that the business of the House was now becoming so heavy and covered so wide a range that the principle of delegation had become absolutely necessary to the successful issue of Parliamentary proceedings. The feeling of the Parliament elected in 1895 was less satisfactory on this point than the system which prevailed in the preceding Parliament. He had observed with great regret in the Parliament which had recently expired that the decisions of Standing Committees had not been received with the same respect as in the preceding Parliament; and he trusted that the Parliament now commencing its duties would, under the guidance of Mr. Speaker, follow the precedent of earlier Parliaments rather than that of the later. Parliament had certainly shown confidence in these Committees, because it had delegated to them subjects of the most gigantic importance. Not many years ago it was the rule of the House when a Bill had been amended in Committee of the Whole House to put the Report stage from the Chair in these words, "That the Bill be now considered." That proceeding involved considerable delay; for it often gave rise to a Second Reading debate, and constituted a great impediment to the advancement of wholesome legislation. When the Standing Committees were first inaugurated, no Amendment was introduced to effect the abolition of that stage, and one part of his present proposal was to secure that when a Standing Committee had carefully considered a Bill and amended it, the Report stage should be taken without question put, and that the House be enabled to proceed immediately with the Report. There was one point in the procedure of the Standing Committees and of Committees of the Whole House which was, as he thought, unfortunately identical. If a Committee of the whole House had passed a Bill without amendment there was no Report stage. He did not regret that condition of things, because the whole House had had an opportunity of considering the whole question, and every clause of the Bill had passed in review before it. But in the case of Standing Committees which had passed a Bill without amendment the same rule applied, and he did not think that that was desirable; because in that case the House as a whole had had no opportunity of examining the Bill in detail, and was granted none except by the cumbrous and oftentimes impossible procedure of moving that the Bill be recommitted. They all knew the great difficulty of adopting that course and the impediment which it interposed to the progress of a Bill. The proposal which he made, therefore, was, that in cases where a comparatively thinly attended Committee had passed a Bill without amendment, an opportunity should be given for the measure to be considered by the whole House, and for every clause to be submitted to investigation.

The system of delegation had been carried out successfully as a whole, but he thought that the Amendments which he had ventured to indicate ought to be made. The House had committed to Standing Committees subjects of the greatest importance, one or two of which he would enumerate in order to illustrate his point. First there was the question of vaccination, a subject of very great importance indeed, and yet the number of Members who took part in the deliberations of the Standing Committee on that was most unsatisfactory. He found that the highest number who voted in any one division was not more than twenty-two, and yet they knew how the public mind was stirred upon that question, and how great was the magnitude of the issue involved. Then they had in 1899 the Act which, for the first time, gave this country free elementary education. That again was most important, and yet the highest number of Members who voted on that Standing Committee was twenty-one. In 1900 there was another Education Bill, in charge of his right hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University, and in the Standing Committee to which that was referred the highest number of votes recorded was twenty-six. He might recall to their minds the Corrupt Practices Bill of 1895—a Bill of very great importance, which gave new powers with regard to the conduct of elections and exposed many persons to the severest penalties. That was passed through a Standing Committee in which the highest number of votes recorded was twenty-two. Did not those figures constitute sufficient proof that the action of Standing Committees in considering proposed changes in a Bill was not altogether satisfactory? He was quite aware that his right hon friend would say not many Bills had passed the Standing Committees without amendment. But still there were some, and some, too, of considerable importance. There was at least one each year, and last year there were two—one of them a Government Bill of very great moment, dealing with education. It was greatly to be regretted that no opportunity was afforded for submitting that Bill to the House clause by clause and word by word. His desire was to strengthen the existing Standing Committees and to bring them back to the position which they occupied in the Parliament elected in 1893 rather than to their inferior position in the succeeding Parliament. He believed that the proposals which he made would tend in that direction, and would give greater vigour to the proceedings of those Committees. They would render possible legislation which was now difficult by reason of rules tending to impede legislative progress. He begged to move.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston) seconded the motion. He said the whole question could be put in a nutshell. Under the present system if a Bill happened to pass through the Standing Committee without amendment the House had no power over it except on a proposal to re-commit, or on the motion for Third Reading. His contention was that a Bill referred to a Standing Committee should under no circumstances be withdrawn from the action or cognisance of the House, and the effect of his hon. friend's proposal would be to enable any Member to put down Amendments on the Report stage of any Bill which had so passed through the Standing Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Standing Order 50 be amended by leaving out from the word 'Provided,' to the end, in order to add the words, 'only that all Bills reported from a Standing Committee, whether amended or not, shall be considered on Report by the House without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof desire to postpone its consideration or a motion be made to re-commit the Bill.' "—(*Sir Francis Sharp Powell.*)

*COLONEL MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon) supported the motion. They knew that if a Bill passed through Committee and if no alteration were made in it it did not again come before the House by way of the Report stage. There was a very important Government Bill to which that happened —the Agricultural Rating Act. It was considered in Committee of the whole House, not a comma was allowed to be altered in it, and the consequence was that it did not come before the House again. But on that occasion the House had an opportunity again and again of considering and voting upon the details. But in the case of a Bill sent to Grand Committee it was most unfortunate, when details had to be settled, that it should be withdrawn entirely from the cognisance of the House. They all knew the difficulty of securing a good attendance at these Standing Committees. They often had to wait some time before a quorum could be constituted, and it had occurred that a Committee had had to disperse without obtaining a quorum. The other night a Crematorium Bill was passed through the House after very hurried consideration, and was sent to a Committee upstairs. If no alteration was made in it by that Committee the Bill, which embodied a principle of the greatest importance to the whole community, would come back to the House and have to be either accepted or rejected on the motion for the Third Reading. Many hon. Members might wish to make important alterations in it, and yet be unwilling to take upon themselves the responsibility of moving its rejection on the Third Reading. It might be suggested that if an hon. Member took particular interest in a Bill he could get his name added to the Standing Committee dealing with it; but recent experience had shown that that was not always possible, and the result was that many Members might be deprived of an opportunity of dealing with questions in which they were deeply interested. He had himself endeavoured, without success, to get his name added to a Standing Committee. It might further be suggested that one result of the abolition of the Report stage was to do away with obstruction. His reply to that was that Parliament had always proved itself strong enough to deal with obstruction, and had carried through legislation when determined so to do.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON also supported the motion. He was glad to think that this was not a question of party. It was a question affecting the Grand Committees which were experimentally created some years ago. He was quite sure that the general opinion of Members of the House was that the work of the Grand Committees had on the whole been very successful, and he was afraid that the only danger likely to arise from them was that they might be used, not for party purposes, but for the promotion of certain Bills by certain Members who did not desire that the House should have an opportunity of giving due consideration to them. At the present moment, if a Bill passed through the Grand Committee without amendment, then those Members of the House who were not Members of the Grand Committee had no opportunity at all of placing their views before the House, or of amending the Bill. He thought the House would agree that that was not a proper position in which such Bills should be placed, and that the effect of the Grand Committee ought not to be to relieve the House of Commons of all responsibility in regard to those Bills. He was quite sure that when the system of Grand Committees was originally introduced there was no desire on the part of the promoters of it to withdraw from the House effective control over the work done by the Committees. No doubt many Bills were sent to such Committees with the general assent of the House, with the object of being improved and passed through the Committee. There might be cases in which for some reason or other, possibly from apathy, there was a bad attendance of the Members of the Committee, with the result that the Bill was not properly considered. In such cases the motion of the hon. Member would effect a very desirable improvement of procedure. If, on the other hand, a Bill had been properly considered by the Committee, then the proposal would have no effect, and the House would be willng to pass on to the Third Reading. There had been some flagrant cases in which efforts had been made to avoid a Report stage. The Government Education Bill was one on which, above all others, Members on both sides of the House should have had an opportunity, if they so desired, of discussing and amending if necessary the work done in Committee. But in consequence of that Bill having been forced by the majority through the Committee without any amendment at all, the only opportunity afforded them of discussing the matter in which they were interested was on the motion for the Third Reading, which, of course, was perfectly futile, so far as Amendments were concerned. He was sure the general view of the House would be in favour of maintaining the integrity, power, and usefulness of Grand Committees, and, as he believed the motion would tend in that direction, he cordially supported it.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): If there had been any indication of any opposition on the part of the House to the motion, I would have delayed troubling the House; but as there seems to be general assent, the time has, perhaps, come for me to state the views of the Government. This is really a House of Commons' matter. I think that the Standing Order referred to by the hon. Gentleman is a curious instance of how a provision sometimes works exactly in the opposite direction from that intended. Under the old common law of Parliament, in the case of every Bill which came to the Report stage, the question was submitted, "That this Bill be now considered." This practice was found to be so irksome and to lend itself to undue discussion that the House passed Standing Order No. 40—

> "That when the Order of the Day for the consideration of a Bill, as amended in Committee of the Whole House, has been read, the House do proceed to consider the same without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof shall desire to postpone its consideration, or a motion shall be made to re-commit the Bill."

The date of that Standing Order was 1882. When Standing Committees were inaugurated it was intended that the House should have proper control over the Bills referred to these Committees, and accordingly Standing Order No. 50 was framed, which provides—

> "That all Bills which shall have been committed to one of the said Standing Committees shall, when reported to the House, be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a Committee of the Whole House; provided that the provisions of the Standing Order, 'Consideration of the Bill as amended,' shall not apply to a Bill reported to the House by a Standing Committee."

The intention was to prevent the whole Committee stage being gone over again on Report, but the old practice was still retained that the question should be put, with debate ensuing thereon, "That this Bill be now considered." That was a laudable thing, but what was the practical working of it? If the Bill was not amended, then it came under the common law practice and escaped the Report stage. I venture to think that that was quite outside the obvious view of the framers of Standing Order No. 50, and I think that my hon. friend behind me is acting in accordance with the intention and true spirit of the framers of Standing Order No. 50 in bringing his Amendment before the House. You must always look at this Standing Order from the point of view of the use as well as the abuse of procedure; both are equally deserving of attention. The use of procedure is undoubtedly that when a Bill has been carefully considered upstairs, there is no reason for an extra debate on the question, "That the Bill be now considered." The abuse of procedure is that, inasmuch as under the present Standing Order, if the Bill is not amended and comes to the Report stage, it puts before the Standing Committees the temptation to commit—I do not say their besetting sin, but what is liable to become their besetting sin—that is, to refuse Amendments in order to avoid the Report stage. There may be also, possibly, the opposite abuse—Amendments may be put in upstairs which are not necessary, in order that it may be open to discuss the Bill on the Report stage in the House. During the ten years I have been in the House I have had as much experience as any one of the Grand Committees. I have been a Member of the Standing Committee on Law during the whole of that time; I have had the conduct of several very long Bills in Committee, and I have no hesitation in saying that I have never observed any controversial spirit in a purely party sense introduced into the discussions on these Committees. But it is possible that there may be a controversial spirit in another than a party sense of the word, and where there are many Members who are anxious to discuss certain subjects but cannot find an opportunity of doing so in the Grand Committee, I think they ought to have that opportunity when the Bill comes back to the House. The Amendment of my hon. friend affords that, and at the same time does away with the possible abuse of a rule which takes a Bill out of the cognisance of the House. The Government would be very glad if the Amendment were passed.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I have only too much reason to fear that the adoption of this Amendment of the Standing Order will be a serious blow at the few remaining opportunities which private Members have to pass legislation. The only chance which a private Member has of getting his Bill passed after the Second Reading is by referring it to a Grand Committee, and if a Bill which has passed the Grand Committee stage can be discussed as a whole on the Report stage the chance of having it passed into law will almost entirely disappear. A Bill cannot get to the Grand Committee unless its principle has been adopted by the House itself on the Second Reading. The Report stage, when the Bill comes back, cannot disappear unless it has passed through Grand Committee without amendment. It has been said that a Bill often passes through Grand Committee on account of apathy or want of interest in the Bill on the part of the Members. For my part, I do not believe that any Bill, raising any question of any substance, could possibly pass through Grand Committee without full discussion. I have had some experience of the Grand Committee on Law, and have seen Bills discussed by fifty or sixty hon. Members who had been appointed to that Committee with special reference to these Bills, and it seems to me an absurdity to state that Bills can pass through Grand Committees without discussion.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): I congratulate the hon. Member for Wigan and the hon. Member for Preston on having placed this resolution before the House. It seems to me deserving of more attention than can be given to it in the absence of a very large number of the right hon. Gentlemen who represent the Ministry. The change suggested by the hon. Baronet is one which vitally affects the procedure of this House, and goes to the root of Parliamentary government. It changes in a very material degree the practice of Parliament in the discussion of Bills that have been referred to Standing Committees; and, in my humble judgment, in a matter of such great gravity and such vital importance we might fairly expect the presence of the right hon. Gentleman who leads the House, in order to have from him an expression of his views based on his ripe experience on all matters that affect the honour and dignity of the House of Commons. I regret very much that we should have had a statement only from the Lord Advocate, who, after all is said and done, is not of Cabinet rank. On a matter of this importance we ought to have had from a Cabinet Minister an expression of the opinion and feelings of the Government.

I am entirely at one with the Lord Advocate, and also with the hon. Member on the Front Opposition Bench, that we ought to deliberate this question as removed from party politics. No questions of tactics or party differences should be dragged into this discussion, as it is a matter which will be of importance when parties are altered, and when Members on this side of the House shall have crossed to the other side. The fact that this resolution has been introduced by two old Members of the standing and position of the hon. Member for Wigan and the hon. Member for Preston ought to have some weight with the House of Commons. This House is largely composed at the present time of new Members. Now, new Members enter with a desire to gain, as rapidly as they can, a full appreciation and knowledge of all the forms and ceremonies of the House; and they are apt, and rightly so, to look to the guidance of Members in arriving at the decis which they may take. I do not think that the House could take, on a question similar to this, better guides than the hon. Members for Wigan and Preston. The very fact that they are detached in matters of this kind, that they have no political axe to grind, and have no desire to further officialism in Parliamentary procedure, should have considerable weight with young Members. The Leader of the House we are all acquainted with. A Bill comes on for Second Reading, and hon. Members rise to debate questions which are perhaps of vital importance to their constituents and their friends, but the House knows too well that the pressure is such that many Members are debarred from speaking, and that when the debate is dragging its weary length the First Lord drops into the Chamber and moves the closure, thus preventing many Members who have fresh, original ideas, and who wish to place them before the House, from doing so. This does not assist or add to the dignity of debate, or the due consideration of measures brought before the House. When a proposal is made that such and such a Bill should be referred to the Grand Committee on Law or on Trade, very little discussion is possible, as the debate is rightly confined to the substantive motion, so that hon. Members who possess encyclopædic knowledge and fertility of ideas, like the hon. Members for King's Lynn and West Islington, are not able to prolong the debate and deal with the very pith and marrow of the Bill. The motion is put, and the Bill is sent to the Grand Committee. For a very long time I have been a member of the Grand Committee on Trade. I have very great respect for that Committee, and fully recognise the ability of its members in dealing with matters of trade; but, after all is said and done, even a Grand Committee, which is specially struck, and is representative of every view in this House, cannot possibly possess the expert and technical knowledge which is shared and enjoyed by the House as a whole. It is possible that upon a Grand Committee there may be a number of members who have strong opinions on any Bill referred to it, and the Grand Committee is debarred from finally considering and elaborating the details of the Bill. I do not desire to generalise altogether on these matters, but I will give one specific instance, namely, the Bill on Beer. What chance has this House, when the motion is made that this Bill should be referred to a Grand Committee, of objecting to it in detail? All chance is lost. If a Bill goes to a Grand Committee, hon. Gentlemen who are supporters of the Bill are in a majority, and all Amendments, even though they may be beneficial, are defeated, even if they have right on their side, not because the Amendments are wrong, but simply for the reason that if one word in the Bill is altered it is impossible to return the Bill unamended to the House. That is carrying matters to extremes. The Grand Committee occupies a position of greater importance than the House itself, and I think in matters of such importance, of such magnitude, affecting a great article of consumption, the House as a whole ought to have power to deal with the details. If a Bill is returned unamended by the Grand Committee, it is impossible to deal with it in the House except upon Third Reading. It is possible to move to recommit the Bill, but all hon. Members know that the House has a strong objection to any motion for the recommittal of a Bill, and very naturally so, after the Committee have worked upon it. It is looked upon as a waste of labour to recommit it, and therefore the power of recommitting a Bill is very seldom used. Therefore, so far as the recommittal of the Bill is concerned, it is almost impossible to obtain it, and even if it were obtained, the result, after the Committee's labours, would possibly be the same. Then comes the Third Reading, but it is a very responsible thing for an hon. Gentleman to move the rejection on the Third Reading of a Bill which is in the main an unobjectionable and a good Bill. No one likes to take such a responsibility upon himself. and if he did, and the measure was a popular one, the man who took that responsibility knows very well he would have an angry body of constituents to meet, and would receive from all parts of the country letters and postcards, anonymous and otherwise, innumerable. There is nothing down on the Notice Paper to-day which is of such vital importance to our debates, discussions, and procedure as this matter, and therefore I say it is the last weapon in the armoury of an objecting Member. A motion for the adjournment of the House is a broken reed, which would pierce the hand of any hon. Member who used it.

In the face of all these facts I venture to ask the House, notwithstanding the objection of the hon. Member for Waterford, whether it is not a desirable change in the rules of procedure of the House which has been moved by the hon. Baronet. I do not think that any hon. Gentleman who has carefully watched the discussions on Bills in this House can rise in his place, without he has some motive, and object to this resolution. I regret that the motion has not been on the Paper for a longer time. I venture to say that it ought to have been considered for a week or two, and possibly referred to a Select Committee, but above all, when a matter of such great moment is brought before the House we ought to have the direct advice, knowledge, and experience of the First Lord of the Treasury at the service of the House. It is to be deplored that when a matter affecting the well-being of Parliament as this does comes up for discussion the right hon. Gentleman should not be in his place. I hope that notwithstanding any opposition my hon. friend will go to a division.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he did not rise for the purpose of prolonging the debate. He approached this subject with a perfectly open mind, and he admitted that it might be looked at from two points of view. There were two classes of Bills which were sent to Grand Committees. So far as the Bills of private Members were concerned he was in complete agreement with the hon. Member for Waterford, that if it was desired to carry through a Bill to which there was the least opposition in the House, the only way to do so was to send it to a Standing Committee. But if private Members' Bills were to be considered on Report, very few Bills would be passed. In regard, however, to the other class of Bills—Government Bills—he welcomed the clause. Everybody knew that the Government, if they had a very contentious Bill, referred it to a Standing Committee, with the result that it was nicely got through the House. While he admitted that it would be disadvantageous to private Members, he welcomed the clause because in contentious Government Bills Amendments could be put down on the Report stage, and dealt with by the House. That was a great lever against the Government, and he should vote for the clause.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said he had listened to the remarks of the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark with great astonishment. During the nine years he had sat in the House he had always thought the hon. Gentleman had exercised all his remarkable ingenuity in order to try and prevent private Members passing Bills through the House.

MR. CALDWELL said he never put down Amendments to any Bills when they had been properly discussed either in Committee or in the House, ; he only did so when proper discussion had not taken place.

MR. BANBURY said all he knew was that he once undertook to pilot a private Bill through the House, and the only objection to the Bill came from the hon. Member for Mid-Lanark. There was no doubt that when Standing Committees were first introduced, the idea was to relieve the House of a certain amount of work which it could not undertake, but it was not contemplated to withdraw all power of supervision from the House on these matters. His experience was that twice out of three times the only Members who attended Committees were those who were interested in passing the Bills with which they were dealing into law. It was impossible to get other Members to attend, and the result was that if a Bill passed its Second Reading and was sent to a Committee, there was every possibility of its being passed into law.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he had always regarded the House as an extremely conservative assembly so far as its rules and procedure were concerned, but here was an attempt being made at ten o'clock at night to alter one of the most important Standing Orders without notice having been given to Members.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon, but my notice has been on the Paper in one form or another during two or three years.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND admitted that that was so, but it could not be denied that the opinion held by most Members was that the idea was that there was to be a morning sitting for taking the discussion on the adjournment of the House, and that the adjournment would be taken at seven o'clock, and that there was practically no possibility of sitting at nine. It would be conceded that if the House sat at nine it was not because of any burning desire to alter the Standing Orders, but to discuss the question of pure beer. The House of Commons had no right under these circumstances to set itself to alter in the slightest degree the Standing Orders of the House. He was of opinion that the proper course would be to adjourn the debate until such time as a purely representative attendance of Members should be present. It was not a party question, but a question for the House generally to decide. If the motion was passed, the logical inference would be that Standing Committees ought to be abolished, because if a Bill, after it had passed through a Standing Committee, could be discussed in the House, the investigations by the Standing Committee would be a pure waste of time. The Members who attended the Standing Committees for the purpose of passing the Bills in which they were interested, as was alleged by the hon. Member for Peckham, were not permanent Members of the Committee, but were imported on various occasions. Of course, if it was alleged that the permanent Members neglected their duty, that would be an argument in favour of the rule, and if that were so, he would say, do not alter the rule, but abolish the Standing Committee altogether. He urged the House not to alter the rule upon such comparatively short notice as had been given, and he begged leave to move, "That the Debate be now adjourned."

*MR. SPEAKER: I cannot accept the motion. The motion of the hon. Baronet has been down on the Paper for several days; there is no surprise.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: On a point of order, do I understand, Sir, that you refuse the motion made because you consider it to be an abuse of the privileges of the House?

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): After your ruling, Sir, I cannot do what I was about to do, namely, second the motion of the hon. Member for East Clare. I heartily concur with what has been said by the hon. Member for Peckham as to the attendance on Grand Committees. In my own experience, a large number of hon. Gentlemen are put on the Grand Committee to discuss a particular measure, and what happens? A large number of those gentlemen are always absent, and are fetched in to take part in the division without their having heard one word of the arguments. But it seems an extraordinary thing that at this period of the session, and on this particular evening, we should be asked to discuss a motion of a somewhat revolutionary character, and I cannot help thinking that we should not proceed further upon this motion without some advice and guidance from the Government.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said the motion practically rang the knell of the Standing Committees, and he should vote for it on that account. He had been for some time a Member of the Standing Committee on Law, and his experience was that there was the greatest difficulty in getting a quorum. The thing was simply reduced to a farce time after time. They had had to suspend the proceedings in order that those who were in favour of something in a Bill might run about to get other Members to support them. The sending of a Bill to a Standing Committee meant avoiding the Report stage and getting it through by a back door. He thought, therefore, they shoud, understand exactly what they were doing.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said he was a member of the Grand Committee on Law. His experience was that the Grand Committee on Trade had done its work exceedingly well, and had materially lightened the duties of the House. It was true that the attendance at the sittings of the Grand Committee on Law had not been quite so numerous as in the other case, but that was probably due to the fact that the number of lawyers on the Committee was disproportionately large, and they all knew very well that the House of Commons and the British Constitution had to adapt themselves absolutely and entirely to the exigencies of their legal work. He was not disposed to surrender these Standing Committees simply because a few lawyers did not attend so often as they ought. The point should not be raised in the way his hon. friend had raised it. If they were to consider whether the Grand Committees should be abolished, let them have a separate and distinct motion, and all the facts placed before the House. The hon. Member pointed out that by having Bills considered in the Grand Committees the time of the House was economised. They could have too much discussion in the House of Commons. He thought the Government would not force Bills through Committee by using their majority unduly.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said his experience as a member of the Grand Committee on Law was that on some occasions, not many, they found difficulty in getting a quorum. On one occasion when the County Councils Consolidation Bill was before the Committee he had a private interview with respect to some Amendments he had on the Paper with the then Attorney General, who had charge of the measure. The learned Gentleman told him that the Amendments were very good, and two or three of them excellent. He said he would be glad to assist him in passing them in the Grand Committee, but that there was no chance whatever of doing it, because there were too many lawyers on it. If the House pressed him he would state who expressed that opinion [Cries of "Name."] It was the present Lord Chief Justice. He moved his Amendments, and not one of them was passed by the Grand Committee on Law. He believed the occasional difficulty in getting a quorum was not owing to any disinclination on the part of Members to attend, but because they found it practically impossible to do so. First of all, the Selection Committee made the mistake of giving Members too much to do by making them members of too many Committees. That was the real cause of the difficulty which was found in getting a quorum. He merely rose to controvert the statement made by the hon. Member for Peckham that it was very frequently found exceedingly difficult to get a quorum on the Committees. He ventured to say that some of the best Bills passed by the House owed their existence on the Statute-book to the efforts made by the Grand Committees on Law and Trade.

MR. JOSEPH NOLAN (Louth, S.) said he agreed with the hon. and learned Member for East Clare that the majority of the Members of the House had not expected to be called upon that night to consider the constitutional change proposed by the hon. Baronet opposite. The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition were both absent, and he thought the hon. Baronet would only be acting fairly if he withdrew the motion now and brought it forward at a more suitable time. He would vote against the motion if it went to a division.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Standing Order."

The House divided:—Ayes, 46; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 124.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Arthur
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Culliman, J.
Doogan, P. C.
Emmott, Olfred
Ffrench, Peter
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Grant, Corrie
Groves, James Grimble
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Malley, William
Reckitt, Harold James
Redmond, John (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warde, Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Ess'x
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. Haviland-Burke.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Anstruther, H. T.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bill, Charles
Boulnois, Edward
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Dickson, Charles Scott
Duke, Henry Edward
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwairing,HnW.F.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Philipps, John Wynford
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Herbt. (Hackney)
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Strachey, Edward
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirCEH(Sheffield
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Williams,Osmond (Merioneth)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Francis Powell and Mr. Tomlinson.

Question put, "That those words be there added to the Standing Order."

The House divided:—Ayes, 85; Noes 41. (Division List No. 125.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Anstruther, H. T.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHn GeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bill, Charles
Boulnois, Edmund
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cremer, William Randal
Dickson, Charles Scott
Duke, Henry Edward
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Flower, Ernest
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gordon,HnJ.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harwood, George
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmo'th)
Macartney,Rt.Hn.WGEllison
Macdona, John Cumming
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robt.Wellesley
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkinngton, Richard
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Richards, Henry Charles
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seely, Charles Hilton(Lincoln)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,RtHn.C.R.(North'nts
Strachey, Edward
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirCEH.(Sheffield
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE.(Taunton
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wortley,Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Francis Powell and Mr. Tomlinson.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bignold, Arthur
Boland, Arthur
Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Burke, E. Haviland
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Condon, Thomas
Cullinan, J.
Doogan, P. C.
Emmott, Alfred
Ffrench, Peter
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Grant, Corrie
Groves, James Grimble
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seal-
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Malley, William
Reckitt, Harold James
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rigg, Richard
Sullivan, Donal
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warde, Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas C. T.
Wodehouse, Hon. A. (Essex)
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
Mr. John Burns.

Ordered, That all Bills which shall have been committed to one of the said Standing Committees shall, when reported to the House, be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a Committee of the Whole House: Provided only, that all Bills reported from a Standing Committee, whether amended or not, shall be considered on report by the House without question put, unless the Member in charge thereof desire to postpone its consideration or a motion be made to re-commit the Bill.

CHINA CRISIS—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BATLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I do not propose to detain the House long upon the subject that I have placed upon the Paper. I consider there is ample justification for that motion in the fact that when this question was before the House last week there was no practical declaration made on the part of the Government. I do not wish to press the Government even to-night for an elaborate declaration with regard to China. I only wish to impress upon them that if they fail to do their duty with regard to the present position in the Far East, if they allow Russia to obtain control of the north-eastern part of China, they will not be readily forgiven by the people of this country. The mistakes of the Government in South Africa have been sufficiently serious; they have lost opportunities of settling the South African question and preventing enormous expenditure of blood and treasure; and the country will not stand a similar experience with regard to China. I ventured to suggest the other day that the Government had the dealing with this question in their own hands. They hold all the cards if they will only play them with courage and determination. The principal card is the position and the temper of the great nation of Japan. If the Government are willing to use Japan as they may, they have nothing to fear, and there is no danger of or necessity for war. But I am very much afraid that the Government will hesitate to give that support in resisting this Russian encroachment which Japan expects from us. It is necessary that the ring should be kept for Japan at sea in the event of force being necessary; and unless the Government are willing to give a pledge of that support I am afraid the Japanese will be forced into an alliance with Russia rather than with us. A very remarkable article appeared in a Russian paper three or four days ago, which says:—

> "It is only from Russia that Japan can look for any genuine help; she cannot count on any other Power, least of all upon England. At the present moment, in the most shameless manner, the English are trying to raise Japan against Russia"—

and so on. That article shows the danger which we incur if we hesitate to give the necessary encouragement to Japanese policy at this time. The Russians can offer a great deal to Japan, and they will not hesitate to do so, if necessary to prevent the Japanese pursuing a policy favourable to this country. That is the danger. We must offer something to Japan. No doubt the Government will hesitate and say that nothing can be offered. I do not expect them to make public the offer. I only wish the country to notice the way in which the Government can solve this important question without danger or difficulty. They can offer Japan a protectorate over Korea. That would be a great boon to the Japanese. Korea, in a sense, is a necessity to Japan. Japan requires a close connection with Korea to feed her people and to provide a place of occupation for her surplus population. Such a course would do no injury to anyone in Asia. It would establish a permanent bulwark there against the further advance of Russia southward. For that purpose I suggest it to the Government. I do not expect them to proclaim this policy at once, but I warn them most emphatically that if the same course is pursued in this north-eastern China question as has been followed in South Africa, the result will be exceedingly serious for them and for the great party which they represent.

There is one other subject to which I wish to call attention, and that is the necessity of encouraging the party of reform in China. The one part of the speech of the Foreign Secretary the other night to which I take exception, is the cold water that he threw upon the possibility of the British Government supporting the reform movement in China. It should be one of the first objects of our policy to support the party which is anxious to establish administrative and general reforms in that country. Unless His Majesty's Government take the lead in that direction there can be little hope for China. It has always been and is still the policy of our great rival in the East to prevent reforms in China, to keep the Government there thoroughly corrupt and rotten, in order that when the favourable moment comes China may fall more readily a prey to her ambitions. That is the policy which Russia has pursued with regard to Turkey for the last fifty years. Ever since, and even before, the Crimean War that was her policy with regard to Turkey. Seventy years ago there was in Turkey a great reforming Sultan, Mahmud II., and if he had been allowed his way the history of Turkey would have been very different. But the moment Russia saw that reforms were likely to be effected she forced war upon Turkey, and destroyed Mahmud's power and all hope of reform. Precisely the same policy is being pursued by Russia in China to-day. On the one hand, she is massacring the Chinese people and destroying the Chinese Army; on the other hand, she is holding out the arm of her protection to the corrupt coterie at court, doing her utmost to persuade the corrupt and tyrannical clique that has too long ruled over China that she is China's friend, and that if they will play the Russian game she will support them.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Mr. Speaker, nearly all the Cabinet are standing behind your Chair; why do they not come in?

House counted, and forty Members being found present—

*SIR E. ASHMEAD BARTLETT: I am not surprised at the attitude of the Government; it is quite on a par with the underhand methods which have been adopted, I am sorry to say, by some leaders of the great party to which I belong to choke off discussions on important subjects. I am very glad that that very carefully organised attempt to count out the House failed. I think it was unworthy of those who planned it. I was calling the attention of the House to the great importance of supporting the party of reform in China. The other day the Foreign Secretary tried to draw a distinction between principles and details upon this question, and he seemed to think that if we got the principles we might abandon the details. But in Chinese affairs the truth is just the reverse, for there it is the details that count. We used to hear a good deal about the principle of Free Trade in China, but nevertheless the Russians got Port Arthur. We heard a great deal about the policy of the open door and open ports, but the fact that the Russians have political and military control of Manchuria, is far more valuable to them than all this vague talk about open doors is to us. We were told that we were going to have all our trade rights in the Yang-tsze Valley and other parts of China protected, but, nevertheless, a great Power like Russia manages to obtain direct control of the North-East of China, and will, if she is allowed to remain in possession there, obtain control of all China.

In conclusion, I say that now is the time for the Government to act. It is not necessary for them to say publicly that they are going to act, or to make any strong statement with regard to the question. I do not care how considerate their language towards Russia is, but what we do want from the Government are acts and not words. We want them to take up this question before it is too late. We want them to take it up before Russia gets permanent control of Manchuria and conscripts a large army there, which would enable her to conquer all China, and indeed all Asia. We want to see China strong and fortified, so that she can resist the attack when it comes. We do not want this question put off, as the South African question was put off, until it has cost this country £130,000,000 and a terrible loss of life. That is the policy which I venture to urge upon His Majesty's Government. The action which I recommend is not in favour of war, or of threatening war, but is the most peaceful action which the Government could take; for it is the neglect of these questions which causes war. Those persons who would put off dealing with these dangers, who would keep silent about them and who would keep the country uninformed about them, are the real advocates of war and the enemies of peace. Several of my hon. friends have told me that my motion is one which is likely to lead to war, but I deny it. I advocate a policy of peace, a peace made certain by timely precautions, a peace with strength, and a peace with honour. I beg to move the resolution standing in my name.

Mr. HARWOOD: I rise to second this resolution, and I wish to call the attention of the Government to one rather serious aspect of the question so far as it affects the county of Lancashire. The Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated in reply to a question that, according to the versions the Government has seen, the suggested Agreement between China and Russia apparently affects British Trade interests only in those parts of the Chinese Empire to which the Agreement applied. China is the second largest customer Lancashire possesses in regard to cotton manufactures, and the people of Lancashire feel that if the Agreement is allowed to be concluded it will start a principle full of danger and threatening to their trade. The noble Lord may say that the Lancashire trade with Manchuria is not very great. I grant that; but, if we allow the principle that any portion of the Chinese Empire can be detached from our trade, there is no reason why the principle should not be carried further. It is said that we stand by the principle of the open door, but we know that we have spent much blood and treasure in order to secure our trade privileges in China, and if those privileges are lost to us in one province, it is no equivalent to say that we have got a special sphere of influence elsewhere. We already possess extensive trade privileges, and we do not want to lose those privileges in any portion of the Chinese Empire. It is not so much a question as to how wide the door in China is open if we can get through it, but it is a question as to the size of the garden on the other side after we have got through. If the garden is made smaller it is no use making the door wider. In Lancashire we recognise the difficulty of the problem, which has existed for the last fifty years. We hear of the existence of the European Concert, but the fact remains that Russia, while a member of the Concert, has been going behind the backs of the other members and secretly negotiating arrangements with China. This is not the kind of conduct which is likely to inspire you with confidence for the future. When a member of any firm goes behind your back and attempts to negotiate an arrangement privately, it makes you full of suspicion regarding his future conduct. The noble Lord says that he absolutely begged Russia to tell us, and that Russia is not only negotiating, but she persists in secretly withholding all information on the subject. In view of the attitude of Russia he thinks we are justified in being anxious and watchful and in taking some firm stand if occasion should necessitate it. The noble Lord also said that the Boxer movement was a surprise to everybody. I do not think it was. I think it shows the existence of some national spirit in China. One nation steps in and takes possession of the Chinaman's front sitting rooms, another takes his back sitting rooms, and then another comes along and demands his bedrooms, and under these circumstances, I think it is to the credit of the Chinese that they resent this conduct, and it gives some hope for the future. I do not want the Government to be dragged by Germany or any other Power into exacting too severe terms from China. The Government must make up its mind to one of two courses. Either you are going to displace the present Government of China, or you are going to keep it. If you are going to displace it you are going to take on a thing which is far beyond the power of this Government to carry out. If you are going to retain the present form of government in China, what is the interest of England in the matter? Why to keep that Government strong. I hope the Government will not exact from China any kind of penalty which would permanently weaken her, because that would injure us in Lancashire, and would also injure the whole country. I ask, firstly, that the Government will see that no portion of our present trade privileges are taken away in any portion of China; and, secondly, that they will not insist upon any punishment or penalty which will be calculated to weaken the power of the Chinese Government in controlling the affairs of that vast empire.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That no settlement of the present Crisis in China will be satisfactory to this House that does not completely exclude Russian military and political control from Manchuria."—(*Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett.*)

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I should like to add my testimony to what has been stated by the hon. Member who spoke last. I did not have the advantage of hearing the speech of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield, and I do not know whether I should have been in order in proposing an Amendment to his motion. Had I been in order I intended to move an Amendment in favour of the southern viceroys being supported. While there is no doubt that the action of Russia in the northern part of China has aroused suspicions which are well warranted, and while there is no doubt that it is the bounden duty of the Government to take every precaution to see that our interests in northern China are not injured, at the same time I am bound to say that, in my opinion, it is far better to leave those matters at the present stage in the hands of the Government.

Turning to the Amendment which I should have moved had I been in order, I would like to point out that, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the Government missed a golden opportunity in the centre of China before the troubles in the North of China reached their climax. I think I am correct in saying that before the outbreak attained any great proportions the Viceroy of Nanking offered to our Government the joint occupation of the forts of the Yang-tsze. Consider, for a moment, the position our Government occupies in Central China. We had proclaimed that we occupied a special position there, owing to our great trade interests. We had proclaimed that on several occasions. I think I am right in saying that in 1894 the late Liberal Government, in so many words, warned Japan from the Yang-tsze territory, and by our understanding with China that she should not alienate any of the Yang-tsze region we again told the world that we had special interests in that portion of China. By the agreement between German merchants and the merchants of our country we arrived at an understanding that the Yang-tsze region was to be considered as our sphere of railway development, and we had a further agreement with Russia on the same lines, namely, that we were to have the Yang-tsze region for railway development and Russia was to have Manchuria for railway development. That showed conclusively our special position in the Yang-tsze valley. When the trouble broke out, the Government was offered possession of these forts, and it appears to me from the position they held and the responsibility they had assumed, they were bound, in the interests of all countries concerned, to have occupied those forts. They let, however, the offer go by, and the trouble increased, but there is good reason to suppose that the viceroys of Central China would have been strengthened in the position they took up against the evil influences of Peking if that offer had been accepted, and that in all probability the troubles in Peking itself would never have reached the disastrous volume they did. Another opportunity was found when negotiations were entered into between ourselves and the court. Who were the proper people through whom to negotiate? Why, surely the viceroys of Central China, who had stood by us through all the troubles. Were they not the people to have represented the court of Peking in these negotiations? What did we do? We went to Li Hung Chang and other persons, not certainly of the best repute, and another opportunity went by. If we had had the influence of these viceroys we should have strengthened our position. They were advocates of reform, and we should have given them a commanding position to enable them to deal with Peking. We have one more opportunity before us. Lord Lansdowne stated the other day, in another place, that it was not our business to force reform upon China. I know of no one who has ever ventured to suggest that reform should be forced on China, but I know those who suggest that reform should be offered to China, and that people who are capable of carrying out those reforms might, if required, be lent to China. That is quite a different thing. The people who use this argument appear to me to assume that all China is against reform. I notice that the hon. Member for Bolton assumes that the Boxer movement was a national movement. Those who are best qualified to judge say that the Boxer movement was not a national movement at all. They say, on the contrary, that it was engineered by the Manchu party, who saw their privileges slipping from their grasp, and who utilised the disorderly element in order to recover the privileges they thought they were losing. The best proof of that is that wherever viceroys or governors were well disposed towards foreigners the people did not rise against them. If the movement were a national movement, would a single foreigner—man, woman, or child—have escaped? But there is to-day in China a national movement. It is a movement organised against what is believed to be the aggressive action of Russia in the north. That is a genuine national movement, and when people look forward with horror to the advance of Russia, I look forward to the day when China, having reformed herself, will be able to meet any enemy who may approach her from the north.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: We must help China.

MR. YERBURGH: My hon. friend says we must help China. Yes, we will have to help China to help herself. I have said just now that the Chinese people are not adverse to reform. It is well known that many Chinese hold property registered under foreign names. They take advantage of foreign law because they consider it better than their own. A remarkable book, which I think everybody interested in China ought to read, was recently published. It was written by one of the great viceroys of China, and it is called "The Only Hope of China." That book displays a marvellous knowledge of all that is best for a nation—education, literature, languages, railway development, and everything that goes to the development of a nation—and it has been received by the Emperor with the highest approval, and he has ordered it to be distributed all through China. Is a man like that viceroy opposed to reform? The leaders are in favour of reform, and why, therefore, do we not go a little further and see that the viceroys of the Yang-tsze Province shall have the right given them to carry out in their own province the reforms for which they have memorialised the Throne? If we did that we would strengthen the position of the viceroys enormously, and give new life to China. They should be allowed to carry out these reforms, and also be given a sufficient tenure of office for the purpose. The Government have the opportunity of making it an integral part of the settlement that these viceroys should be given that power.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must remember that the question before the House is the position of Russia in Manchuria. A great deal of what he is now saying is not relevant to that question.

MR. YERBURGH: I apologise for having trespassed beyond the limits of the motion. I will conclude by saying that, as stated in the book to which I have referred, this Government and all other

Governments in dealing with China have shown a slipshod, drifting attitude, and a habit of depending on mere fortuitous success.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): The hon. Member for Bolton in seconding this resolution never referred to the question of Manchuria at all. I will confine myself strictly to the motion, and I wish to give my views to the House as to why it should not be accepted. Manchuria is really a vague geographical expression. I doubt very much whether any Member of this House or any person outside it could really define the geographical boundaries of political Manchuria. When we discuss the resolution with the object of compelling another Power to be excluded from a certain territory, it is extremely important that we should be perfectly clear in our own minds what that means. If we do not know the present political boundaries ourselves, then it is only waste of time to discuss such a resolution as this.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I know them perfectly well.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: My hon. friend says that he knows them perfectly well. I am very glad to hear it. I would ask him does his resolution mean that no settlement will be satisfactory that does not exclude Russia from acquiring more of Manchuria than she now has, or does he mean that no settlement will be satisfactory that does not turn out Russia from the portions of Manchuria she has long held? I wish to deal with this question of the Russian advance in Manchuria, and with the circumstances which have led up to the present state of affairs. In the press, and even in this House the position of Russia in Manchuria is discussed as if it were a question of yesterday, or the day before.

I will give the House, as briefly as I can, a sketch of the persistent advance of Russia from Europe to Manchuria for the purpose of getting to the sea on the sunny side of Siberian territory in order to have open ports. It was a definite, persistent policy, and it is important with reference to this question that we should remember that we are not dealing with a series of questions which have suddenly arisen, but that we are dealing with a policy which has come down through generations to the present time. It was during the reign of Henry VIII. that the Russians first began to move eastward. At the time of the Spanish Armada they got so far eastward as to be able to found Tobolsk. In the reign of Charles I. there was a great expedition to the Upper Amur, and later another expedition penetrated further eastward, and attempted to occupy this very region of Manchuria. That expedition, with all its gallantry and all its persistency, was almost completely destroyed with the exception of forty-seven, who were taken prisoners to Peking, and founded the Russian college in that city, which has had a continuous history up to the present time. Then followed another expedition which went still further east, and founded Nerchinsk. That was about the time that Bombay was ceded to England, so that Russia was advancing towards the Pacific Ocean before we had established ourselves at Bombay. Still pushing on, the Russians made a settlement at Albazin, on the upper reaches of the Amur, but that settlement was wiped out by the Manchus, and the 5,000 gallant men composing it were massacred. Manchuria is really the water-shed of the Amur, and the Amur is the key of the whole position. During the reign of William III. the Russians approached the position from the sea. They acquired Kamskatka in 1728, and explored the coast, with the result that they acquired that territory which they recently transferred to America—Alaska. The next interesting point occurred at the commencement of the last century. They tried to extend their position, but they were shut out by Manchuria and China from actual contact with the sea territorially. In the year of Trafalgar the Russian flag was hoisted on the Island of Saghalien. This was a persistent policy, characterised by great energy, great gallantry and great perseverance on the part of Russia, though often attended by defeat and disaster. In dealing with this question it is important we should have an historical outline of the persistency of Russia and a knowledge of the fact that Russia occupied these regions two or three times and suffered defeat in her attempts to hold them.

Now as to modern times, during the Crimean War a great Russian general was at the furthest eastward position on the Amur, 2,000 miles from the sea, while we were marching the Guards through London and were preparing to meet Russia in the Crimea. He cast guns and made ammunition there, and built barges and a steamer to tow them. The Russians, with a splendid conception of strategy, which they accomplished in a most wonderful way, were preparing to extend their territory to the sea which for centuries she had fought and bled to attain. At the eastward point I have mentioned boats and barges were built thus to go straight down the Amur. They did not go to the mouth of the river, but crossed over where the Amur takes a bend, and arrived at a place now known as Port Imperial. Our fleet was already in search of the Russian fleet, in the summer of 1854, which was known to be in the Pacific. We could not discover it, and the fleet were instructed to ascertain if the Russian ships had taken shelter in the vicinity of Petropaulovski in Kamskatka. The combined fleets of England and France sailed one morning into the bay. They found it commanded by five Russian forts swarming with Russian soldiers, and the Russian fleet under cover of the guns of the forts. I am not going to allude to that disastrous affair in naval history. Our Admiral shot himself going into action, and the ultimate result was that we had to retire. We could not take the ships, and we tried to take the forts, but we could not do it. We lost heavily and had to withdraw. People were then full of the Crimea, and did not hear much about it, but next year the Governments of England and France, being determined to wipe out the disaster, sent out a powerful fleet. The ships were ordered not to advance into the bay until the whole force was assembled, but many weeks elapsed after the arrival of the first ship at the rendezvous. 100 miles south of the bay. During these weeks the Russian ships passed within fifty miles of our fleet without being seen, and when our fleet sailed into the bay they found the forts dismantled, the ships gone, and the inhabitants selling trophies of our defeat. Another squadron was sent to Saghalien. One Sunday morning they saw in Castries Bay the whole Russian fleet. Our force was a weak one, and sailed away south to give information, but they did not leave a watch, with the result that when they looked in again a week later they found the Russians had left.

During all those years Russian policy was to come to a very distinct understanding with China with regard to certain portions of territory, but they always left that portion of boundary nearest the sea undefined. The treaty confirming what they had taken of Manchuria in 1855 was not ratified by China until we met with that unfortunate disaster of our unsuccessful attack on the Taku Forts in 1859. The Russian admiral used his friendly offices for us with the Chinese. What he really did was to pull the rejected treaty out of his pocket and call on China to sign it. Ever since that time Russia has been gradually extending her territory down towards the north of China. Is this House going to pass a resolution to exclude Russia from the territory which she has occupied in Manchuria for years, and which she has gained at the expenditure of blood and treasure. I cannot understand anyone knowing history bringing forward any such resolution as this. The policy suggested by it is an impossible policy. You cannot get the Powers to engage in a policy to turn Russia out of Manchuria, where she has established herself by a persistent policy pursued generation after generation, and it is ridiculous to talk about it. What is the alternative? The alternative is to recollect that Russia has been forced onward on her land destiny, as we have been forced onward on our sea destiny, and to see that our interests and trade rights are not adversely affected by Russia being in Manchuria on the sea, on the rivers, and at Chinese ports.

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Adjourned at one minute after
Twelve of the clock till
Thursday, 18th April.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 18*th April*, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

Several other Members took and subscribed the Oath.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Major RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): On behalf of the hon. Member for the City of London, I beg to give notice, for 14th May, to call attention to the duration of speeches, and to move: "That in future no hon. Member, except by leave of the House, shall speak for more than twenty minutes, or twice on any Vote in Supply, Ministers and ex-Ministers excepted."

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. Member entitled to give notice in the name of another hon. Member?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. If the hon. Member gives notice in the name of another hon. Member, of course nobody but the hon. Member so named can move it.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND CANNOCK CHASE RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

BURY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL.

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL.

LONDON BRIDGE WIDENING BILL.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEND RAILWAY BILL.

TEES VALLEY WATER BOARD BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY (DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [Lords].

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (DEARNE VALLEY JUNCTION RAILWAYS) BILL.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP F).

The Chairman of Ways and Means informed the House that the Committee on Group F of Private Bills not being appointed to meet until Tuesday next, the parties opposing the Devonport Corporation (Gas) Bill, which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of Samuel Dashper Brooming, Schoolmaster, St. Stephen's School, Devonport; Herbert Banbury, Tax Collector, 16, Somerset Place, Stoke, Devonport; John James Edgcumbe Venning, Solicitor, 4, Penlee Gardens, Stoke, Devonport; John White, Chief Clerk, Devonport Post Office, 99, Wilton Street, Devonport; Richard Samson, Station Master, London and South Western Railway, Stoke, Devonport; Herbert Y. Adye, Divisional Superintendent, Great Western Railway, 2, Leigham Street, Plymouth; and Wodehouse Dillon Richardson, Assistant Adjutant General, Western District, Beauchamp Weston Peverell, Devonport, was essential to their case, and that their attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House.

Ordered, That the said Samuel Dashper Brooming, Herbert Banbury, John James Edgcumbe Venning, John White, Richard Samson, Herbert Y. Adye, and Wodehouse Dillon Richardson do attend the Committee on Group F of Private Bills on Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Chipping Norton, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Aberdeen, in favour: to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL

Petitions in favour, from Bunker's Hill; Waterloo; Camerton; Chequerbent; Norton Green; Elsecar; Leigh; Tyldesley; Baddesley Ensor; Exhall; Ansley; Haunchwood; Bedworth; Stockingford (two); Walsgrave-on-Sowe; Chilvers Coton; Bell Green; Nuneaton (two); Longford; Dearham; Cotes Park; Tong; Ravensthorpe; Hucknall Torkard; Bestwood; Linby; Newstead; Normanton; Riddings; Pollington; Morton; Clackmannan; Alloa and Devon; Alva; Tillicoultry; Swallow Wood; Rotherham; Denaby Main; Morton (No. 6); Newton; and Birchwood Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (YOUNG CHILDREN) (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Aberdeen, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION) SCHOOLS.

Petitions in favour, from Kingswinford; Tottenham; and Colchester; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition in favour, from Folkestone; Meriden; Heath Town; West Lancashire; Bury; and Fordingbridge; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Penzance, against; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petition of Scottish Trade Protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Newton Lodge; Waterloo; Dearham; Camerton; Checquerbent; Tyldesley; Leigh; Tupton (No. 4); Sheepbridge (No. 1); Pleasley; Chesterfield; Clay Cross (No. 3); Elsecar; Swanwick (two); Norton Green; Heage; Norton (No. 6); Pollington; Morton; South Normanton; Cotes Park; Riddings; Bunker's Hall; Birchwood; Sandersfoot; Bowling; Tong; Batley West End; Aldwarke (No. 2); Rotherham; Denaby Main; Ravensthorpe; Bestwood; Linby; Newstead; Ansley; Bedworth; Haunchwood; Ansley Hall; Chilvers Coton; Nuneaton (two); Walsgrave on Sowe (two); Exhall; Baddesley Ensor; Stockingford (two); Bell Green; Longford; Hucknall Torkard; Clackmannan; Alva; Tillicoultry; and Alloa and Devon Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition against, from Montrose, and Forfar; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Crewe, and Stapleford; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Leeds, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from St. George's East; Smethwick; North Birmingham; Taunton; Glasgow (two); Pill; Catford; Bromley; Durham; Kirkmabreck; Thorpe Hesley; Bolton; Glasgow; Dudley; Reading; Sheffield (five); Kings Nympton; Northam (two); Midsomer Norton; Dewsbury; Ilkley; Ravensthorpe; Common Side; Willaston; Coppenhall; Beeston; Rathen; Edinburgh (two); Taunton (two); St. Pancras; Lumphanan; Bilton; Wath-on-Dearne; Stocksbridge; Bromley (two); Liverpool; Salford; Bolton; Lambeth; Stalybridge; London (two); and Heckmondwike; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Milnathort; Clackmannan; Dollar; Insch; Dalserf; Aberdeen; Turriff (two); Fintray; Kininmouth; Ellon; Alves; Edzell (two); Elgin; Burghead; Alloa; Tongue; Stonehouse; and Perth; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petition from Abernethy, against; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S HOUSES TENURE BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) RULE.

Paper [presented 28th February] to be printed. [No. 122.]

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) DIETARIES.

Paper [presented 28th February] to be printed. [No. 123.]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The following Papers, presented by Command of His Majesty during the Easter Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August 1896 :—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series),—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2568 to 2572 ;

2. Trade Reports (Miscellaneous Series),—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, Nos. 549 and 550 ;

3. Egypt (No. 1, 1901),—Copy of Reports by His Majesty's Agent and Consul General on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1900 ;

4. China (No. 3, 1901),—Copy of Further Correspondence respecting events at Peking [in continuation of China (No. 4, 1900)] ;

5. Army (Military Works),—Copy of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Barracks Act, 1890, and Military Works Acts, 1897 and 1899 ;

6. Army (Recruiting),—Copy of Annual Report of the Inspector General of Recruiting for 1900 ;

7. Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897,—Copy of Third Report to the Secretary for Scotland of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Board ;

8. National Gallery, etc. (Scotland),—Copy of Seventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufacturers in Scotland, being for the year ending 30th September, 1900 ;

9. Explosions (Nobel's Explosives Factory at Ardeer, Ayrshire),—Copy of Report by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an Explosion which occurred in one of the dynamite cartridge huts at the Factory of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, at Ardeer, near Stevenston, in the county of Ayr, on the 29th January, 1901 ;

10. Explosions (Chilworth Gunpowder Factory),—Copy of Report by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an Explosion which occurred in the corning house at the factory of the Chilworth Gunpowder Company, Limited, at Chilworth, Surrey, on the 12th February, 1901.

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 4, 1901).

Copy presented, of Agreement additional to the Convention between the United Kingdom and France, of 8th December, 1882, relative to the Exchange of Telegraph Money Orders between the two Countries. Signed at Paris, 10th October, 1900. Ratifications exchanged at Paris, 16th March, 1901 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2573 to 2575 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Crofters' Commission, being for the year 1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.

Copy presented, of Minute sanctioning the Subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of the Act, for the City and County Borough of Belfast (Fifth Minute), dated 21st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Ordered 8th March; *Mr. M'Crae*]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES).

Annual Account presented, for the year 1899–1900, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 124.]

LEAD POISONING.

Copy presented, relative thereto [Address 19th March; Mr. *Jesse Collings*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 126.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT) (WAREHOUSES IN FACTORIES OR WORKSHOPS WHERE BRIGHT OR BURNISHED METAL GOODS ARE MADE).

Copy presented, of Order, dated 6th September, 1900, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 65 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and Section 39 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, permitting the Warehouses in Factories and Workshops where Bright or Burnished Metal Goods are made to be treated as separate Factories or Workshops, as far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons, and women [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

Accounts presented, for the year 1900, with an Account of extraordinary Works executed other than the general Repairs for the same period [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Cambridge creating a new Polling District in the Eastern Division of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LOAN FUND BOARD (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Sixty-third Annual Report, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRARIAN OFFENCES (PROVINCES) (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return by Provinces of Agrarian Offences in Ireland for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report on Agriculture, for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Copy presented, of Return of Prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd April; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 127.]

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158A]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT ACT, 1900, No. V.).

Copy presented, of the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1900, No. V. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUEENSLAND (THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS ACT, AND THE ELECTIONS ACTS 1885 TO 1898 AMENDMENT ACT OF 1900).

Copy presented, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Act, 1885 to 1898 Amendment Act of 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

Return ordered, "for each of the three years ending the 8th day of August, 1900, of—

1. The number of Petitions for Private Bills deposited in the Private Bill Office;
2. The number of Private Bills read a first time in the House of Commons;
3. The number of Private Bills first considered in the House of Lords under Standing Order 79;
4. The number of Private Bills first considered in the House of Lords under Standing Order 79, brought from the Lords;
5. The number of Private Bills (Estate, etc.) originated in and brought from the Lords;
6. The number of Private Bills decided upon by Committees on Opposed Bills;
7. The number of Private Bills treated as Unopposed and referred to the Chairman of Ways and Means;
8. The number of Private Bills that received the Royal Assent:

distinguishing in all cases between Bills which affected England, and Bills which affected Scotland, and Bills which affected Ireland, respectively (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 198, of Session 1898)."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.

Return ordered, "showing (1) the Rates of Duties, Taxes, or Imposts collected by Imperial Officers; (2) the Quantities or Amounts taxed; (3) the Gross Receipts derived from each Duty; and (4) the net Receipts and Appropriation thereof in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901; and (1) the aggregate Gross Receipts derived from all such Duties, Taxes, or Imposts under the principal heads of Revenue; (2) the aggregate net Receipts; (3) the Charges of Collection; and (4) the Produce, after deducting these Charges, in each of the ten years ending the 31st day of March, 1901."

"And, Notes to show any changes in the Taxes, Duties, and Imposts consequent upon the acceptance of the Budget Proposals of 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No, 284, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1901–2 (INTERMEDIATE DUTIES ON SUGAR).

Copy ordered, "of Statement relating to Intermediate Duties on Sugar made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer when opening the Budget."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 125.]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1901–2).

Copy ordered, "of Statement of Revenue and Expenditure as laid before the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer when opening the Budget." —(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 128.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATIONS.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the promised inquiry into the conduct of the war will be through a Royal Commission or a Special Committee.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): It would be premature to make any statement on the subject at the present moment.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Are we not to have any inquiry? If the right hon. Gentleman would answer that question it would allay my suspicions.

[No answer was returned.]

TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT ASSETS.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, at the present stage of annexation, the assets and legal rights which pertained to the late Transvaal Government have been transferred to the British Government; and, if not all, whether he would name those untransferred.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The assets of the late Transvaal Government undoubtedly passed generally to the succeeding Government on annexation. Whatever exceptions may exist to this general rule can only be considered as they arise.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman to repeat his answer, as it was quite inaudible in this part of the House?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I will give the answer to the hon. Member later.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Am I not in order, Sir, in asking the right hon. Gentleman to read his answer again?

*MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, the hon. Member is quite in order in asking, but the right hon. Gentleman is also quite in order in answering as he did.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I shall be most happy to read the answer again if it is desired, but I thought it would be more convenient to the hon. Member to have the actual written answer placed in his hands, and I would have given him that immediately after the questions were over. It is not my fault that I was not heard. I will, however, read the answer again. [The right hon. Gentleman did so.]

THE TIMES AND SIR ALFRED MILNER'S RETURN.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Colonial Secretary whether it was in consequence of, or owing to, any communication from the Colonial Office that *The Times* was enabled to announce the return of Sir Alfred Milner one day before any other newspaper in the United Kingdom.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir, certainly not.

RHODESIA—CHINESE LABOUR.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government have sanctioned the importation of Chinese labourers into Rhodesia.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer is in the negative.

JANSENVILLE TOWN GUARD.

MR. HAVILAND-BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that Captain Edwards, the local commandant, has adopted measures against persons in Jansenville who refused to join the town guard, compelling them to labour at public works; and whether it is in accordance with any article of the Hague Convention to put non-combatants to forced labour in the case of their refusing to render military or police service.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Guildford): I have no information as to the alleged action of the local commandant of Jansenville. There is no article in the Hague Convention applicable to the case mentioned.

MR. HAVILAND-BURKE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the question is founded on a Reuter telegram dated 26th March?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

SOLDIERS' REMITTANCES FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I wish to ask the Secretary for War if his attention has been called to the complaints of a number of women throughout the country, and especially in Cornwall, to the effect that their husbands having formed local corps in South Africa some months ago, and having made arrangements on enlisting for a portion of their pay to be remitted home, they have never received any remittance, and are consequently in a state of extreme poverty. May I further ask what action has or will be taken by the War Office to redress this grievance. I may explain that I gave notice of this question during the holidays, but by some inadvertence it does not appear on the printed list.

*Mr. SPEAKER: There has been no inadvertence. The notice was given after the Orders of the Day had been printed.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I believe a letter has been sent to the hon. Member asking him to postpone the question. We have cabled to South Africa for particulars, and at the present moment the only information we have is from the men themselves in the letters they have written home to their wives, stating that they have remitted home.

Mr. CAINE: Will the noble Lord cable again?

Lord STANLEY: We have already cabled twice.

MOUNTED INFANTRY TRAINING—SCOUTING DUTIES.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, having regard to the importance of having troops trained in mounted duty and scouting ready to meet without delay any further demand on the part of Lord Kitchener, such bodies are now being prepared for immediate despatch to South Africa.

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir. The training of mounted infantry at home is being continued.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the terms of engagement of the units composing the force of 35,000 Imperial Yeomanry will render them liable in war for Imperial service beyond sea; if so, under what conditions; and if they are not to be liable for general service beyond sea in war, will he state whether the area of their obligatory service will correspond to that of the Militia, namely, the United Kingdom, or to that of the Volunteers, namely, Great Britain.

Mr. BRODRICK: The liability for service of the new Imperial Yeomanry will be limited to the United Kingdom.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB asked why these conditions should attach to this particular local force more than to any other.

Mr. BRODRICK: We hope to be able to attach to them other similar forces of Yeomanry in the colonies.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB: And are none of them available for general Imperial purposes?

[The reply was inaudible.]

MARK IV. BULLETS.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many of the 50,000,000 Mark IV. bullets were made by Government and how many by private firms; and will he give the names of the respective firms, the number of Mark IV. bullets made by each firm, and the price paid per thousand bullets.

Mr. BRODRICK: No, Sir; I am not prepared to throw upon the Department concerned the unnecessary labour of obtaining this detailed information.

THE WAR OFFICE AND INVENTIONS.

Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any department in the War Office for the prompt and thorough examination of drawings, specifications, and models of new inventions submitted by inventors for adoption in the British Army; and, if not, whether he will consider the desirability of appointing one or more skilled scientific officers as examiners of inventions.

Mr. BRODRICK: New inventions are promptly and thoroughly examined in the department of the Director General of Ordnance or by any other department which may be specially concerned.

WHITLEY RIFLE RANGE—FACILITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. ROBSON (South Shields): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the range accommodation allotted by the authorities for the use of the eleven companies of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers consists of only four targets on the Government range at Whitley, which is eight miles by rail and about two miles by road from the battalion headquarters; that, as nearly all the men are unable to find time to go that distance for practice except on Saturday afternoons, this accommodation is insufficient to permit of the class firing being carried out carefully or effectively, and leaves little or no opportunity for additional practice or instruction; also that a public right-of-way exists across the range which delays the firing; and whether the Government will take steps to procure the diversion of the right-of-way, and to erect more targets on the range.

MR. BRODRICK: The number of targets on this range has recently been increased to eight, and it is expected that this enlarged range will be available during 1901 for this battalion for three afternoons a week, including Saturday. The difficulty caused by the right-of-way across the range is fully appreciated, and will be further considered.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH—DRILL-SHED.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the Report of the Board of Visitors to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in which it is stated that the Board were much surprised that nothing had been done towards providing a drill-shed; that the necessity for such a building has been urged by successive Boards for several years, and the present members are at a loss to understand why its erection has been so long delayed; and that the Board again emphatically urged the necessity for a drill-shed being at once constructed; and whether he will undertake that it be erected this summer.

MR. BRODRICK: Funds have not been available to provide for all the recommendations of the Board of Visitors, and this service was postponed for the more pressing service of accommodating an increased number of cadets. It cannot now be provided in 1901.

MR. BARTLEY: But is not a drill-shed absolutely essential for the Royal Military Academy?

MR. BRODRICK: It is desirable, but not absolutely essential.

CADETS' SWORD EXERCISE.

MR. BARTLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, as stated in the Report of the Board of Visitors upon the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, for the year 1900, some of the cadets at sword exercise use wooden sticks to represent swords; whether he is aware that the Board urge that a supply of swords and all drill requisites shall be kept to meet requirements; and whether immediate steps will be taken to comply with the advice of the Board.

MR. BRODRICK: A supply of swords has been ordered.

NAVAL LIEUTENANTS.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state what was the number of lieutenants in the French fleet last year, and what is the number proposed for next year; and what is the number of sea-going lieutenants in His Majesty's Fleet, excluding honorary lieutenants and holders of permanent shore appointments.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The number of lieutenants in the French fleet last year was 778, including 23 supernumeraries without pay. The number proposed for 1901 is 778, including 24 supernumeraries without pay. The number of sea-going lieutenants in the Royal Navy on 1st April of the present year—excluding honorary lieutenants and officers permanently employed upon shore, but including 31 lieutenants employed on coastguard service—was 1,169. I may add that at the same date there were 439 lieutenants on the list of the Royal Naval Reserve.

CUTTING OF SUBMARINE CABLES IN TIME OF WAR—AMERICAN RULES.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs whether he is yet in a position to give any information to this House respecting the Code of Law issued by the Navy Department, and signed by the President of the United States, concerning matters relating to the cutting of submarine cables in war.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): Article V. of the Naval War Code, for the use of the United States Navy, is worded as follows—

> "The following rules are to be followed with regard to submarine telegraphic cables in time of war, irrespective of their ownership: (a) submarine telegraphic cables between points in the territory of an enemy, or between the territory of the United States and that of an enemy, are subject to such treatment as the necessities of war may require. (b) Submarine telegraphic cables, between the territory of an enemy and neutral territory, may be interrupted within the territorial jurisdiction of the enemy. (c) Submarine telegraphic cables between two neutral territories shall be held inviolable and free from interruption.

CHINA—THE NANKING AND WU-CHANG VICEROYS.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs if there is any truth in the statement that the Nanking and Wu-chang viceroys have received a letter from His Majesty's Government recognising their patriotism in opposing the Manchurian Convention, and congratulating them on the result of their action; and whether in this sense His Majesty's Government have themselves made any such communication, or that any British official in China has done so with authority.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: We have been in frequent communication with the viceroys at Nanking and Wu-chang since the flight of the Court from Peking, and the Consuls-General at Shanghai and Hankow were recently desired to inform them that their patriotic and courageous conduct during the recent crisis was highly appreciated by His Majesty's Government.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, with a view to celebrate the accession of His Majesty the King, and for the encouragement of thrift, he will arrange with the Postmaster General for the transaction of the business of the Post Office Savings Bank at all rural post offices serving a population of upwards of 200 persons; and will he consider the expediency of relieving the guarantors of all money order and public telegraph offices throughout the Kingdom from further liability.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Any suggestion as to the extension of savings bank facilities at rural post offices is a matter for the Postmaster General, but I do not think that either the first or second suggestions in the question could be connected with His Majesty's accession.

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state how many of the 257 persons received into inebriate reformatories have been committed to such reformatories under the Inebriates Act of 1898.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr, RITCHIE, Croydon): All of them.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that while of the 11,000 officers and men of the Royal Irish Constabulary seven-eighths are Roman Catholics, of the five general officers, namely, inspector general, deputy inspector general, and three assistant inspector generals, only one is a Roman Catholic, and that of the thirty-six county inspectors only three are Roman Catholics, and of the 214 district inspectors only forty-three are Roman Catholics; can he say why such a majority of officers are Protestants, in view of the fact that such a majority of the men are Roman Catholics; could he arrange for a reduction of the number of the district inspectors by making some additions to the pay of the head constables and also the number of the county inspectors by suitable arrangements; and seeing that one of the assistant inspectors general is now about to retire, will steps be taken to prevent further religious disparity in respect of the new appointment.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The total number of officers and men in the Royal Irish Constabulary on the 1st January last was 11,176, of whom 8,102, or 72½ per cent., were Roman Catholics. The remaining figures are correct, except that fifty-nine district inspectors are Roman Catholics. Three-fourths of the vacancies in the rank of district inspector are filled by competitive examination, on the result of which the religious persuasions of candidates can have no effect, nor is the religious denomination of candidates taken into account in the selection of the remaining fourth. The appointment of district inspectors to the rank of county inspectors is made on the same principle. The answer to the third paragraph is in the negative. For the post of Assistant Inspector General the Government must secure the officer who is best fitted for the appointment, irrespective of the creed to which he belongs.

CATTLE DISEASE—REGULATIONS IN IRELAND.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that the Argentine Republic prohibits the importation of live stock from the United Kingdom owing to the existence of foot-and-mouth disease in Great Britain, and that Ireland is now and has been for over sixteen years free from this disease, and that the prohibition is productive of loss to Irish stock breeders, the Secretary of State will endeavour to obtain a relaxation of the prohibition in favour of stock bred in and exported from Ireland.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Representations to this effect have recently been made more than once, but I am afraid without success.

BALLINASLOE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that a letter and the reply thereto between Lakefield, Ballinasloe, and Rathcabbin, occupy five days in transit, though the double distance is only sixty miles; that this state of affairs could be remedied by the Rathcabbin postman waiting half an hour at Birr till the Ballinasloe mail arrives, and by timing him to arrive at Birr on the return journey from Rathcabbin so as to catch the mail car for Ballinasloe; and whether he will take steps to carry these suggestions into execution.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): In order to make the connection suggested by the hon. Member, the departure from Birr of the mail car for Portumna, which serves Rathcabbin and other places, would have to be postponed from 5.45 a.m. to 7 a.m., and the return car would have to leave Portumna at 2.50 p.m. instead of 4.25 p.m. A very small proportion of correspondence would benefit by such an alteration, and as the postal service throughout a considerable district would be adversely affected, the Postmaster General would not be justified in sanctioning the change without evidence of its being generally desired by the inhabitants of the various places concerned.

ENNIS—PROPOSED BONDED WAREHOUSE.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government will establish a bonded warehouse in Ennis for the convenience of traders in county Clare.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The practice of establishing Crown warehouses has long ceased; but if the traders of county Clare desire to establish a bonded warehouse at Ennis, the Board of Inland Revenue will be prepared to consider any proposals which they may have to make.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state what are the intentions of the Government with regard to land purchase in Ireland generally, and in particular with regard to the county of Wexford, in view of the fact that in that county a number of tenants have arranged to purchase their holdings, but that the purchase of these holdings cannot be proceeded with owing to lack of funds.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No doubt the case of Wexford justifies the demand for some action on the part of His Majesty's Government, but I cannot, in answer to a question, make a general statement with regard to our policy.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: When will it be convenient for the right hon. Gentleman to make such a statement?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR was understood to reply that he could not make such a statement until the pressing financial business of the Government had been disposed of.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask the Leader of the House, with reference to his motion for the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule, whether it is to be understood that no further progress will be made with the Budget resolutions than such as is absolutely necessary for fiscal reasons. The House knows that there are certain resolutions which must be passed this evening for the purpose of saving the interests of the Exchequer. Will the progress this evening be confined to a resolution, or resolutions, of that nature? If the resolutions are passed this evening, of course it will be understood that the full right of the House will be reserved to reconsider the subject and pronounce an opinion at a later stage.

Colonel MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon): May I at the same time ask what the future course of business will be?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The House is aware that there are certain resolutions which must be passed this evening for fiscal reasons, and it has been the universal practice in consequence of that fact to suspend the Twelve o'clock Rule on the night upon which the Budget is introduced. My right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be glad if, in addition to the absolutely necessary resolutions, he can also obtain a resolution for a loan. The House will have an opportunity to discuss the resolutions in the fullest measure. It has always been considered the best practice not to discuss the Budget on the night it is introduced, but to reserve the full discussion of principles for the Second Reading and the full discussion of details for the Committee stage of the Finance Bill. I hope that this practice will be followed by the House on the present occasion. There will probably be resolutions to be disposed of after the House rises, and I propose to take those to-morrow. If the discussion of them does not last the whole evening, the other business taken will be the Committee stage of the Demise of the Crown Bill and the Committee stage of the Army Annual Bill. On Monday I shall ask the leave of the House to take Tuesday morning sittings until Whitsuntide, and the first Order of the day will be the moving of the Speaker out of the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: When will the resolutions be reported?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I will arrange about that.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I be allowed to respectfully represent to the right hon. Gentleman that the proposal to take on Monday the resolution with reference to Tuesdays is in the nature of a breach of the understanding which the Government arranged with the Irish Members that the first business to be transacted, either on the Friday, or, if fiscal business was not finished, on Monday, was the moving the Speaker out of the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates, so as to enable a discussion to be taken on the important question of University education in Ireland. A discussion on the motion to take Tuesdays until Whitsuntide will necessarily be a long one, and I would ask the right hon.

Gentleman to postpone the taking of the motion about Tuesdays, in order that the original understanding may be adhered to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member needs no assurance from me that I have not the least desire to curtail the important discussion which he wishes to initiate; but, unless I put down the motion on Monday, how am I to obtain the morning sitting on Tuesday?

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Put it down to-morrow; I do not care when it is taken so long as it is not at a time which would result in a breach of the clear understanding between us and the Government.

MR. DILLON: As a point of order, may I ask whether it would be open for the right hon. Gentleman to put a motion of this kind before Supply on one of the allotted days?

*MR. SPEAKER: A motion of this kind would not prevent Friday being an allotted day, but I understand it is not to be treated as an allotted day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not an allotted day. I will put down this motion for to-morrow instead of Monday.

MR. T. M. HEALY: In reference to the motion standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman, may I call attention to a point of order affecting the money resolution in respect of the loan in Committee of Ways and Means? I submit that the resolution affecting the Loan Bill cannot be dealt with in the same Committee of Ways and Means as deals with the Budget resolutions.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is perhaps anticipating what the Chairman of Ways and Means may have to decide, but, as I understand, the resolution which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will propose relating to the loan will be a resolution in Committee of Ways and Means.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will not such a resolution require notice?

MR. T. M. HEALY: Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer propose to set up a separate Committee of Ways and Means distinct from the Committee on the Budget resolutions?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I understand that the loan resolution is to be treated as one of the resolutions depending on the Budget.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will there not be two Bills?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The resolution for the loan can be taken in the same Committee of Ways and Means.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is but one Committee of Ways and Means, and when the House is in Committee of Ways and Means it can entertain any motion appropriate to Ways and Means. It is not necessary to give notice of the terms of the Loan resolution.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Has a Committee of Ways and Means ever started two Bills? It has never been done.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: To the best of my recollection it was done last year.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if under consideration at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the provisions of the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 326; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 126).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r

Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W.(Leeds.
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H.(Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B.(Hants.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, T. Gibson(King's Lynn
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Campbell, Rt Hn J. A.(Glasgow
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colville, John
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William T.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J(Manc'r.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H.(City of Lon.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary(St. Albans
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'r H'lets)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D(Wednesbu'y
Greene, W. Raymond(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G(Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, James(Strffords. N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie(Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsd.
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John(Kent, Faversh'm
Howard, J.(Midd., Tottenham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James (Lanc., Bury)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry, Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Arthur H(Hants. Fareham
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col H. L. B.(Cambs.
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(Edinburgh W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott(Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A.(Deptford
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Newnes, Sir George
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Oldroyd, Mark
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, George Wm.(Reading
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander

Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hon. M. W(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas. Thomson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, HC(North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker(Lanarks.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Edward
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Shef'd
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, Eug. (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E(Taunt'n)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, George (Norfolk)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Gilhooly, James
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William. (Clare)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

THE BUDGET STATEMENT.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): On each of the previous occasions during the last five years on which it has been my duty to place before the Committee a statement of the financial condition of the country, I have been happily able to congratulate them on the generally increasing prosperity of the people—1899 was perhaps an exceptional year in that respect. This time, my retrospect is not quite so satisfactory. I do not say that there is any step in a backward direction, but the year 1900, especially in its last six months, did show symptoms of a change. Our foreign trade during the year considerably increased, but it was an increase in value rather than in volume. That increase was mainly derived from the very high prices of certain articles, notably coal, which, of course, in its turn must have done injury to some of our important industries, especially the railway interest, and which cannot but have restricted the spending powers of the community. Nevertheless, my revenue for the last year shows no sign of adversity.

My estimate of the Exchequer revenue was £127,520,000; the actual receipts were £130,385,000, or £2,865,000 more than my estimate. But I am bound to say that that excess was due practically to forestalments on dutiable articles, and had it not been for these forestalments my estimate of revenue would have been barely realised. Now there may be, perhaps, a good deal to be said in favour of forestalments; there is, I am sure, a great deal to be said against them. But of one thing I am quite certain, and that is that they are an unmitigated nuisance to financial statisticians. The forestalments of revenue in 1899–1900 amounted to as much as £3,250,000, which, of course, properly belonged to the revenue of last year. The forestalments of revenue in last year, I think, somewhat exceeded that sum, but it is extremely difficult, perhaps impossible, to form an accurate estimate of what they amounted to, because they principally took place in the months of January and February, some time before the close of the financial year. But the statistical difficulty that arises from these forestalments is that they entirely upset the relations between the revenue of any year and the consumption of dutiable articles within that year, so that it is practically impossible to form any accurate conclusion as to the increase or decrease in the consuming power of the people. Therefore, this evening, I shall not detain the Committee with any detailed comparison of the receipts under the various heads of Customs and Excise between the past and the previous years, because only hypothetical conclusions could be drawn from a comparison of this kind. Generally, I will venture to say this, that I think the consuming power of the people is maintained, but there is no material evidence of the expansion of that power beyond what can be fairly attributed to the increase of population, and there are some points which I shall notice, from which undoubtedly we may draw lessons for the future, which by no means diminish my present difficulty.

The receipts from Customs in the last year amounted to £26,262,000, which is £2,642,000 beyond my estimate. That was practically due to an increase beyond my estimate of £1,050,000 on tea, and £1,680,000 on tobacco. I may say in passing that so far as Customs are concerned, my estimates of the yield of the additional taxation imposed last year were, irrespective of the forestalments, realised; but these forestalments to which I have referred accounted for the increase of the Customs revenue above my estimate. On the other hand, Wine produced only £1,492,000, a decrease of £128,000 as compared with my estimate, and of £238,000 as compared with the previous year. Turning to Excise, Spirits almost exactly realised my estimate of £19,000,000, but this I have to admit was considerably due to anticipatory clearances. When I come to Beer, which, of course, is not affected in this way, the produce of Beer last year was only £13,500,000, which was £470,000 less than my estimate, and therefore showed a decrease as compared with my estimate both in regard to the ordinary taxation on beer and the increased taxation on beer. That may be attributed partly to the fact that very many beer drinkers and persons who excite to beer drinking in others were absent in South Africa; perhaps it was due to the eloquence of my right hon. friend the Member for the Sleaford Division of Lincolnshire in making so much of the arsenic scare; but I fear it may have been also due to a decrease in the spending power of the people affected by the high price of coal. At any rate, the fact remains that there was a noticeable decrease in the number of standard barrels of beer that paid duty during the last financial year. And yet, curiously enough, I believe that the number of liquid barrels of beer consumed by the people did not decrease at all. The process, I imagine, was this: the dealers in beer imposed the additional duty on their customers, not by raising the price, but by what is euphemistically called "lowering the gravity." I am sure it will be a source of pleasure to hon. Members below the gangway opposite to hear that the only part of the United Kingdom, so far as the Excise authorities are aware, in which that did not take place to a serious extent was Ireland. But I am afraid that even in Ireland the dealers in spirits followed the example of the dealers in beer, and the result has been that I have, though unwittingly, been a greater promoter of temperance than any of its recognised apostles, because the people at large did not take so readily to the consumption of the weaker article as they took to the consumption of the stronger. The result of my examination of the revenue from spirits in the course of tbe past year, coupled with the experience of 1894, is that we have now practically reached the limit of profitable taxation on spirits.

Now, Sir, I come to a more agreeable subject—namely, the Death Duties. The yield of the Death Duties was absolutely abnormal in the year 1899–1900. It amounted to £18,473,000, £14,020,000 going to the Exchequer and £4,453,000 to the Local Taxation Fund. Last year the total yield of the Death Duties was £17,090,000, £12,980,000 going to the Exchequer and £4,110,000 to the Local Taxation Fund, so that the Exchequer yield of the Death Duties almost exactly realised my estimate of £13,000,000. That was a cautious estimate. It was rather objected to as being too cautious at the time it was made, but I knew what I had to expect, because in these matters, with regard to the administration of large estates, the receipts of the year do not so much depend on the deaths in the year as on the deaths that have taken place in the previous year, and, therefore, I was aware that there was likely to be a considerable falling off in the value of the larger estates which came in for administration and payment of duty during last year. The fact was this, that, whereas in the year 1899–1900 the estates of twelve millionaires, amounting to £26,533,000, paid £2,151,000 in Death Duties, last year we had to be content with ten millionaire estates, amounting to £16,198,000, and paying only £1,317,000 in Death Duties. I do not complain, but I do mourn the falling off, and the Committee will be glad to hear that I have better expectations for next year. More than £1,000,000 less was received last year from estates of over £250,000 in value than in the previous year, and nearly £500,000 less from estates under that value, which diminished both in number and value. I dare say the hon. Member for King's Lynn will say that this is a clear proof of the falling off in the yield of the Death Duties. I do not think so. I think it is largely due to chance, but it is also due to a fact which many persons have to deplore, namely, the great reduction in value of the best securities on the Stock Exchange. Some of these securities have been reduced by as much as 15 per cent., and, of course, when they form part of an estate which comes in for Death Duties the value of that estate must be proportionately less. The total capital value of the property on which Estate Duty was paid last year amounted to £262,162,000. The year before it amounted to £291,981,000, so that there was a decrease of £29,817,000 in value last year, mainly on free personalty and personalty abroad. Yet I do not think we need be alarmed on that account, for the reason I have already stated, because the capital value of the personalty paying duty last year exceeded by £6,500,000 that which paid duty in 1898–99.

The yield of Stamps last year was most unsatisfactory. They only yielded £7,825,000, which was £725,000 less than my estimate and £675,000 less than the previous year. This, I believe, was due to the prolongation of the war and the practical absence of business on the Stock Exchange.

I now come to the Income Tax. The yield of the Income Tax last year was very remarkable. It amounted to £26,920,000, or £1,120,000 above my estimate. It was not until the year 1889 that a penny of Income Tax produced more than £2,000,000. That year it produced £2,045,000. Now, although £1,440,000 a year has been given away by abatements to the poorer income tax payers since 1889, and, as I think, rightly given away, one penny of Income Tax produces more than £2,400,000. In twelve years the Income assessed to Income Tax has been increased by no less than £120,000,000. I hope the Committee will remember that when I come to a later point, and will remember also that there has been at least a corresponding increase in the position of the classes who are below the Income Tax limit, as the Returns of the savings banks and of wages paid conclusively show.

The only other points in the revenue to which I need call the attention of the Committee are the facts that we have had an exceptional receipt from the Mint owing to the profits on the silver coinage, and that the telegraph receipts contrast very unfavourably with the expenditure. I wish to impress the latter fact on many hon. Members who are always asking us for additional expenditure on the telegraph system, either for the payment of the staff or for the extension of the system both at home and abroad. The total Exchequer revenue was £130,385,000, the amount paid to the Local Taxation Fund was £9,634,000, or in all £140,019,000.

The Budget estimate of the Exchequer expenditure was £150,061,000. Since then there have been, as the Committee will recollect, Supplementary Estimates amounting to £30,704,000 for the wars in South Africa and China, and £578,000 added to the Consolidated Fund Services for interest on debt, and there have been large additional Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, mainly due to the wars in Ashanti and East Africa. There has been a Supplementary Estimate for the Navy of £2,519,000, owing to the necessity of providing increased reserves of guns, ammunition, and stores, and to the high price of coal, so that the total estimated expenditure for the year amounted to £185,178,000. If we deduct from that the saving under various heads of £1,586,000 we arrive at a total Exchequer expenditure of £183,592,000. Out of this, over one-third, or £68,620,000, was war expenditure—£65,120,000 in South Africa, and £3,500,000 in China. If we deduct the Exchequer revenue of £130,385,000 from the total expenditure of £183,592,000, we find a deficit for last year of £53,207,000, showing that we paid £15,413,000 out of revenue towards the cost of the war. The deficit was raised by £26,969,000 from the war loans, £20,194,000 from Exchequer bonds, £5,000,000 from Treasury bills, and the balance of £1,044,000 was temporarily borrowed on Ways and Means pending the receipt of the final instalment of Exchequer bonds which were authorised by Parliament last December, amounting to £3,230,000, payable this month. On the 1st April last our total borrowings on Ways and Means amounted to £3,000,000, including the £1,044,000 which I have already mentioned, and the rest was devoted to strengthening the balances, with the result that the Exchequer balances, which at the end of the financial year 1899–1900 were £3,517,000, on the 1st of this month stood at £5,597,000.

Now I have to inform the Committee of the amounts which the Exchequer provided in addition to the expenditure which I have already stated. It provided £9,739,000 for the Local Taxation Fund, and £4,915,000 borrowed on terminable annuities from the National Debt Commissioners for capital expenditure on naval and military works, the Uganda railway, telephones, and matters of that kind, the capital and interest of which, as the Committee are aware, are repaid from year to year by Votes on the Estimates of the year, being outside the Consolidated Fund charges, so that the total amount provided by the State last year came to the enormous sum of £198,246,000.

I now come to the National Debt, and I am afraid that my account of it will be a painful contrast to some which I have given in former years. The total National Debt on the 1st April, 1900, was £639,165,000. In that is included £10,186,000 for reproductive services of the nature to which I have just alluded, and that amount has been increased this year to £14,731,000. But that is outside the fixed debt charge. The deadweight debt was on the 1st of April, 1900, £628,979,000; on the 1st of this month it was £687,932,000, owing, of course, to the increase of £59,000,000 on account of the war. There has been a slight decrease in the funded debt, in which I do not include the war debt at all, of £1,425,000, owing to the operation of the life annuities held by the public, which, of course, cannot be suspended with the suspension of the Sinking Fund. There is, on the other hand, a slight increase in the capital value of terminable annuities, amounting to £1,378,000, principally owing to the fall in Consols, by which the equivalent in stock of the cash value of these annuities became increased.

Now, Sir, I have done with the review of the past, and I come to the future, which will be more interesting to the Committee. I will take the expenditure first, as it is the least interesting part. The Consolidated Fund Services for the year in which we stand amount to £27,800,000, including provision for the Sinking Fund and for the interest on the War Debt already incurred. The Supply services, for which Estimates have been laid on the Table of the House, amount to £159,802,000, which is £31,720,000 more than last year. There has been an increase for war expenditure on the Army Estimates of £20,433,000, and of £6,327,000 for ordinary services. The Navy Estimates show an increase of £3,353,000; the Civil Service Estimates of £791,000; the Post Office and Telegraph Services, £759,000, making a total Estimate for war services, included in the Army Estimates for this year, of £58,230,000, as compared with £37,797,000 in the original Estimates of last year. I would just point out to the Committee, in passing, that that amount of over £58,000,000 is £10,000,000 less than the actual war expenditure in South Africa and China last year. Therefore the total estimated Exchequer expenditure for this year is £187,602,000.

I now come to the estimated revenue on the present basis of taxation. I put the Customs at £23,600,000, a reduction of £2,662,000 on the receipts of last year on account of the forestalments which have taken place. I put the Excise at £33,100,000, the Estate Duty at £14,000,000, which may seem a high estimate, but is accounted for by the anticipations of the yield on large estates which I have already indicated to the Committee. I put Stamps at £8,000,000, Land Tax and House Duty at £2,500,000, and Income Tax at £30,000,000, owing to the fact that there are large arrears from last year which will be included in this year's receipts; and my advisers assure me that they do not think there will be any real falling off, taken all round, in the profits of the year 1900 as compared with the profits of the year 1897, in calculating the three years upon which the duty under Schedule D is paid. That makes a total estimated revenue of £111,200,000 from taxation. Of the non-tax revenue, I put the Post Office at £14,300,000, Telegraphs £3,450,000, Crown Lands £475,000, recipts from Suez Canal shares, etc., £830,000, and miscellaneous receipts £2,000,000, making a total of £21,055,000. The two together make £132,255,000, which, deducted from the Exchequer expenditure, shows a deficit for the coming year of £55,347,000.

I come now to the interesting question of how that deficit is to be met. At first sight it would appear to be only a war deficit, because, as the Committee may recollect, out of the expenditure £58,230,000 is war expenditure; and if you put that aside you will find that the ordinary revenue as compared with the ordinary expenditure shows a surplus of £2,883,000. But even if it were only a war deficit I should have to propose to the Committee additional taxation towards meeting it as I proposed last year. I never will be responsible for the fatal policy of paying the whole cost of the war out of loans, without charging a reasonable amount to the taxpayers of the day. But I am afraid that it is not only a war deficit. I am afraid that the real difficulty before us is not so much the cost of the war in South Africa and China as the increase of what may be called our ordinary expenditure. Five years ago, when first I had the honour of introducing a Budget in the House of Commons, I ventured to the best of my power to give a warning to Parliament and to the country. I took the history of the previous twenty years, and I showed that the proportionate increase of expenditure in those twenty years had been far and away greater than the increase in our revenue, and I impressed to the best of my ability upon the House and the country my grave doubts as to the possibility of our existing financial system bearing such a burden if it continued to increase. What are the facts? I then showed that, after making a fair allowance for increases or decrease of taxation in the twenty years before 1896, the receipts from Customs, Excise, Stamps and House Duty had increased by 16¾ per cent., and the receipts from Income Tax had increased by 15½ per cent., but that the expenditure had increased by no less than 68 per cent., and that the direct taxpayers had borne the bulk of the new burden. What has happened since? In the past five years our Exchequer revenue, which was £102,000,000 in 1895–6, at the time I spoke, has increased—speaking in round numbers, and of course putting aside receipts from increased taxation—to an amount which, on the basis of taxation which prevailed in 1896, would have yielded about £118,000,000 in the present year, or an increase of £16,000,000, a very satisfactory increase too. But how much has our expenditure increased? The Navy Estimates in 1895 were £18,701,000; this year they are £30,876,000. In round numbers the Army Estimates were £18,000,000 in 1895–6; this year they are £30,000,000. They have grown to that amount under what I see described in some quarters as the "blighting influence of the Treasury." The Civil Service Estimates which were £19,297,000 in 1895-6, are this year £23,630,000. In round numbers this is an increase of £28,000,000 in expenditure as compared with £16,000,000 of revenue.

The question we have to ask ourselves is, How has this increased expenditure been provided? It has been provided simply by the additional taxation imposed last year. What was that additional taxation imposed for? It was not for ordinary expenditure, but for war services. It was proposed and it was intended by the House to be additional taxation for war expenditure, and we all hoped and expected that at the end of the war it could be remitted. But since then our ordinary expenditure, apart from the war, has enormously increased; and looking at the way in which the increase is going on, supposing the war came to an end three or four months hence—[Opposition cries of "Oh, oh!"]—well, supposing it came to an end sooner than hon. Members opposite expect, as it possibly may, our ordinary expenditure would not permit us to remit the additional taxation which was imposed for war purposes last year, and which, let me remind the Committee, included an income tax of no less than 1s. in the £. I hope the Committee will feel that I am trying to place before it the financial situation frankly and fearlessly. I should fail in my duty if I did not do so. That is why I have said that to my mind the great difficulty with which we have to deal now is not the war expenditure, but the ordinary expenditure of the country; and, therefore, in imposing additional taxation to meet the additional expenditure of the present year, I think we are bound to make some endeavour to put our financial system on a broader basis, so as to enable us to bear the increase in our ordinary expenditure which may be necessary.

I rather gather from the way in which my observations have been received on the opposite side of the House that some hon. Members, perhaps many hon. Members, may be disposed to question the necessity of this increased expenditure. I do not refer—and I hope this will be clearly understood—in what I am about to say, to hon. Members from Ireland below the gangway opposite. They have frequently protested against the increased expenditure, and have done their best to prevent it. I speak to hon. Members opposite, and I speak to hon. Members behind me. I think that this increased expenditure is necessary, or I should not be standing at this box to-day; but I would venture to remind the Committee that that has been the opinion repeatedly expressed not only by great majorities in this House, but by the constituencies in the country.

Let us take the Navy expenditure. I do not care where you go in Great Britain, I do not care what the political complexion of your meeting may be; I venture to say that there is one thing which will be popular in that meeting irrespective of political opinion, and it is that we must have a strong Navy. Hon. Members opposite are equally responsible, and rightly responsible, wit us, for the increase of expenditure that is taking place on our Navy. Now let us turn to the Army. If there is one thing that both parties agreed upon in canvassing the country at the last General Election, surely it was this, that there must be great reforms in our Army. And reforms cost money. [Opposition cries of "No, no."] They must cost money. When my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War made his proposals to the House earlier in this session what happened? Why, I think the Leader of the Opposition himself—I am certain that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean—objected to those proposals as insufficient. [Cries of "No."] Oh, yes; because they did not include the most costly of all expenditure—an addition to the pay of the Regular Army. Then I come to the expenditure on the Civil Service, the Post Office, and the Telegraphs. From all quarters during the past five years, from every quarter of the House, including *that* quarter [the Irish benches], there have been continual proposals for increased expenditure under these heads;, but there is one matter, perhaps, in which hon. Members opposite may think that they could promote a saving—namely, in the grant under the Agricultural Rating Act—a matter of a million and a half a year! An important sum, but just look what the demands of those hon. Members would be on other matters. It was not very long ago that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition bound his party, including, I suppose, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, to adopt a system of compulsory land purchase in Ireland. [Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT dissented.] So we have not got a united Front Bench opposite yet! I took it, that the silence of the right hon. Gentleman gave assent. At any rate, the party opposite, both above and below the gangway, are pledged to the adoption of something of that kind, which must involve increased expenditure. Then I turn to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton. He is always urging us, backed by the sentiment of the great body of the House, to give India £5,000,000 sterling, when the finances of India are in an infinitely better condition than our own. We have proposals from various quarters to expend money from the Exchequer in aiding great towns to solve the difficult and important problem of the housing of the working classes, to improve the port of London, and, above all, to promote the great work of education. [An HON. MEMBER: All profit!] Never mind, it is expenditure. I am not questioning the profit of any of these matters. That would not be a fit argument for a Budget speech. I am only endeavouring to impress on the Committee that what hon. Members opposite might possibly save under one head of expenditure they would certainly expend under another. It is among, I believe, the most favoured articles of their political creed to impose infinitely larger burdens on the taxpayers for the promotion of education, whether elementary, secondary, or university, than the taxpayers have hitherto borne; and therefore, though we may be divided—and we are divided—as to the manner in which the money should be spent, yet we are of one accord, I am afraid, in this matter—that the money should be spent in some way or other. At any rate, there is no party, or section of a party, in this House that is in favour of economy for economy's sake. I speak with the experience of five years as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I have suffered a good deal departmentally under the universal feeling in favour of increased expenditure. That only enforces what I ventured to say just now—namely, that we have come to a point where it is necessary, in dealing with our financial system, to widen the basis on which our taxation rests. That, of course, does not refer to direct taxation.

I have to raise a certain sum from taxation now. I must ask both direct taxpayers and indirect taxpayers to take their share of that burden. I have seen some natural grumbling from income-tax payers, who already groan under a shilling in the £, against any further increase in the Income Tax. I do not wonder at it; but I think it was rather a protest, in reality, against the whole additional burden being thrown on their shoulders than against the idea that they should bear some portion of it. At any rate, I know that in the great war of the early part of last century for thirteen years Income-

Tax payers had to pay 2s. in the £, and that in the Crimean War their burden went up in one year to 1s. 4d. in the £. It is a shilling now. We have to find additional money for war expenditure and for preparations for war, and I shall be obliged to ask income-tax payers in the course of the present year to bear a burden of twopence additional income tax, or in all 14d. in the £. That, Sir, will raise a sum in this year of £3,800,000, and next year £900,000 in the shape of arrears, making £4,700,000.

Now I come to the great problem of indirect taxation. Our thoughts naturally turn in respect of indirect taxation to articles which are already subject to duty. I will briefly review them. First of all there are Spirits. I have already intimated to the Committee that I do not think it feasible, at any rate in the present condition of the country, profitably to the revenue, to impose additional taxation on Spirits. I turn to Beer. I must remind the Committee that, for the first time for many years, the number of standard barrels of beer that paid duty last year showed a substantial decrease. I cannot venture, under these circumstances, to impose additional taxation on Beer, though I shall have something to say later on about the brewers. I turn to Wine. It is a falling revenue. Nothing more can be got out of Wine—["Oh!"]—absolutely nothing. I turn to Tea. Tea is already taxed up to 75 per cent. of its value. Tea is the produce mainly now of India and Ceylon—a crop in which our fellow subjects at home and abroad are deeply interested, and the trade in which, owing largely, I think, to over-production, is at present in by no means a satisfactory condition. I do not think we ought to increase the duty on Tea.

I turn to Tobacco. Sir, twice in three years the Tobacco Duties have been changed. There is no trade more sensitive to a change of duty, whether it be up or down; there is none in which I know from experience such sensitiveness is more detrimental to the revenue, and I do not think it wise to impose, for the sake of the revenue, additional taxation on Tobacco. I have had suggested to me many new ideas. One comes from Sheffield. It is the favourite theory of my hon. friend that we should impose a Customs duty on £100,000,000 of manufactured imported goods. I think my hon. friend and those who support this view really forget how often it happens—in fact I think generally—that the finished product of one industry is but the raw material of another. I confess I believe that the removal from our tariff list of the scores and hundreds of articles which were on that list before the middle of last century was even a greater boon to the working classes of this country than free trade in corn or anything else that was given to them. I believe it opened up the industries of the country, it increased employment, it developed industry in a way which was of infinite benefit to our working classes. And I believe, though I know that on that point my hon. friend does not agree with me, that it is largely due to that policy that at the present moment we raise so magnificent a revenue with so little effort to the country. I think my hon. friend will be prepared for the announcement that I am not disposed to impose a Customs duty on £100,000,000 worth of manufactured articles. I have had many other suggestions. The Post Office is a nuisance to a Chancellor of the Exchequer who is expected to impose taxation for many weeks before the date of the Budget. I marvel at the wonderful simplicity of numberless people in this country—I marvel at their blissful ignorance of the history and the yield of our taxes, who appear to suppose that a tax on cats or on dogs, according to weight, or on bicycles, or a graduated receipt stamp, would pay for the expenditure of the South African War. Well, Sir, my experience in such matters is that anything like the imposition, which has been often suggested to me, of a stamp or licence duty on every conceivable thing—from theatre, music hall, and railway tickets on the one hand, to auction sales and racehorses on the other—would have this certain result, that it would worry and disorganise the whole of our social fabric, so to speak, while on the other hand, owing to the number of exemptions that would be necessary, owing to evasions, and owing to the cost of collection, it would produce to the revenue hardly anything worth having. Sir, I am not disposed to embark on such a policy as that. I want a tax that will be largely productive; I must levy a tax, therefore, on some article of universal consumption which is very cheap; I want a tax that shall not be open to the economical objection to which a protective duty on an article largely produced in this country would certainly be open, namely, that it would raise the price of the whole amount of that article to the consumer by a far larger sum than it would yield to the Exchequer. I want a tax that everybody shall pay, not only those who are privileged to pay Income Tax and Death Duties, or those who indulge in alcohol or tobacco.

Therefore I am bold enough to propose a duty on sugar. Now, the imports of sugar imported for home consumption in this country last year were 31,500,000 cwts.; and it has been calculated that something like 90 lbs. per head of the population is consumed in the course of a year. I think that that is a very exaggerated estimate—I speak of household consumption. Such an estimate would include the amount of sugar that is wasted in the process of refining and in manufacture; it would include the amount of sugar manufactured into goods which are exported or which, at any rate, do not come into use in the ordinary household. In my belief it would be a much nearer estimate to say that the household consumption of the people of this country averages about 56 lbs. per head in a year, and amongst the poorer classes very considerably less. Well, Sir, sugar is an article which is taxed in every country in Europe and in the United States, and all economists are agreed that it is an article which may be fittingly taxed in financial necessity. We have acted upon that principle ourselves. A tax on sugar is, in no sense, a protective duty; it never was so, and for obvious reasons it cannot be so in this country. And therefore long after Free Trade was established in this country a tax on sugar was continued at a point far above anything I should like to propose now. In the first year of the Crimean War the tax on refined sugar varied from 13s. 4d. to 17s. 4d. per cwt. The first act of Mr. Gladstone in order to find money for that war was to raise that tax by an amount which was calculated to yield £700,000 a year. In the next year the tax was raised by Sir George Cornewall Lewis to no less than 20s. per cwt., and even in the year after the close of the Crimean War the tax on refined sugar amounted to 18s. 4d. per cwt. After that date it was gradually reduced till the year 1874, when it was abolished by Sir Stafford Northcote. But Sir Stafford Northcote, I think, had some compunction about the possible effect on the revenue, for he referred to the argument that you might carry the practice of cutting off duties too far and leave yourself with so few channels through which the wealth of the country could find its way that the Exchequer might permanently suffer a loss. What was Mr. Gladstone's reply? Mr. Gladstone said that it was—

> "a superstition to suppose, merely because we abolish a duty in this country, that we cannot reimpose it, provided we are able to show an adequate public necessity."

Well, in our opinion that "adequate public necessity" has arisen. The position is that to which Mr. Gladstone himself referred in 1860, when he said—

> "If we are to have a very large scale of expenditure and a very high income tax, I cannot think, while the bulk of the burden should fall on the shoulders of those having property"—

as it certainly does now—

> "that it is otherwise than desirable that the labouring classes should bear their share of the burden in a form in which it will be palpable and intelligible to them."

Sir, it is, in our opinion, in the true interests of peace and of economy that the labouring classes, as well as other classes in the country, should know that they bear the burden of the cost of the war, and of preparations for war.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): There will not be so much Mafficking now.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: What is likely to be the effect on the price of sugar of the imposition of this duty? In my opinion that is a very doubtful question, because the price of sugar is not governed solely by the ordinary conditions, but it is governed largely by the bounty system. The great bulk of our imports of sugar comes from bounty-giving countries. What is that system? It amounts to this: that the country giving a bounty encourages the production of sugar within its own borders, and at the same time does its best to restrict the consumption by its own people by every possible means. So that the result is that there is an enormous surplus of sugar produced which must find a foreign market, and which, under present circumstances, can only find that market here. And therefore it is quite conceivable—unless, of course, the bounty-giving countries either reduce the area of their sugar production, or lower their own Excise duties on sugar for the benefit of their own population, both of which would mean the abolition of the bounty system —it is quite conceivable that the result of the imposition of a tax on sugar here might be that although, at first, the price might go up and the consumption of sugar be consequently decreased, there would be such an inflow into this country of bounty-fed sugar that could not go anywhere else that the price would be brought down again. I merely put that hypothesis to the Committee, because I think it is one which ought to be considered by anyone who takes an interest in this question. Let us take the ordinary results of the imposition of a duty. Suppose it results in the price of the article being increased to the consumer by the amount of the duty and something more.

Very well now, the duty I propose on refined sugar is 4s. 2d. per cwt. I do not propose a uniform duty on all sugars. I propose a duty on raw sugar diminishing from that 4s. 2d. in certain proportions which I will presently explain. But the duty on refined sugar which I propose would be 4s. 2d. per cwt. Now a halfpenny on a pound of sugar would be 4s. 8d. per cwt. Therefore I have left a margin of 6d., and that margin ought to be sufficient to enable the dealer in sugar to pay for the Customs handling, which in regard to refined sugar would be a small matter, for the expense of agency, for the interest on the duty, and any other charges he might have to bear. So that I see no reason why the imposition of a duty of 4s. 2d. per cwt. on refined sugar should increase the retail price of refined sugar by more than a halfpenny per pound. Of course opinions will differ in the Committee as to the effect of that burden, assuming it is imposed, on the working classes; but I will venture to call attention to this fact in the past. In 1893, not many years ago, when, as we may remember, Parliament was almost entirely occupied with Home Rule and with the new Magna Charta granted by the Parish Councils Act, the price of refined sugar, without any duty, was 18s. a cwt. The price of sugar last year was under 13s. a cwt.; and this year, I believe, it is even lower. Therefore I am at any rate justified in saying that the price of sugar with the duty, if it rose in the ordinary way, would not be more than it was in 1893. Well, there never was the slightest complaint made by the working classes or by the manufacturers in the year 1893 as to the injury done to them by the excessive price of sugar; on the contrary, the consumption of sugar in that year was nominally as much as seventy-five pounds a head, and in my belief the increase in consumption since has been principally due, not to increased household consumption on the part of any class of the population, but to the increased use of sugar, owing to its cheapness, in various manufactures, such as, for example, beer, or cheap and unwholesome confectionery, which a good many people think is not to the unmixed advantage of the country.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Does my right hon. friend propose to exempt West Indian sugar?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: No, Sir. I now come to a matter which must be explained, and as to which, I fear, I must ask for the patient indulgence of the Committee, because it is a very technical, complicated matter—the mode in which the duty on raw sugar will be assessed. Our old sugar duties were graded in five classes, varying according to a colour test in descending shades from pure white through yellow to brown. That gave rise to constant friction between the Customs officers and the merchants, because the eye of the Customs officer was not always the same, and was not always correct. And the test would be inapplicable to raw beet sugar, which is now the principal material of British refiners. Since 1874 a new method has been invented by which the amount of crystallisable sugar contained in any parcel of raw sugar can be tested by an instrument called a polariscope, which has been adopted by the trade for the purpose, a scale being recognised by an association in which both sellers of raw sugar and refiners are represented, under which the amount of pure sugar in the parcel is judged according to the number of degrees of polarisation recorded by the instrument. This scale forms the basis of the tariff. The Customs would accept, as a rule, the degrees of polarisation recorded in the invoice, subject to the occasional test of a parcel by their own polariscopes, so that the trouble and delay in clearing would be reduced to a minimum. Refined sugar which polarises above 98 deg., and amounts to nearly two-thirds of our total imports, being the only kind imported at all but at a few of our largest ports, would pass direct to the distributor without delay, paying the full duty of 4s. 2d. per cwt.; and the duty on all raw sugar polarising below 98 deg. would gradually diminish with each diminishing degree of polarisation by a percentage of the duty, until it fell to the minimum of 2s. per cwt. on raw sugar polarising at no more than 76 deg., which would yield little more than half its weight of pure sugar. The percentage of duty allowed on each degree of unrefined sugar commences at 2·4, and varies at three points in the scale. I propose to lay the exact scale on the Table of the House this evening, and I think it would be better seen than heard. I hope, with regard to it, that hon. Members will bear two things in mind. In the first place, it may appear very complex, but that must be so for the simple reason that there are, as hon. Members are aware, great varieties and different kinds of raw sugar, and in order to be fair to each you must make certain variations, and fractional variations, which will be very easy to work because they will all be worked on large parcels of sugar —sugar, of course, not being imported in small parcels at all. Secondly, we have endeavoured to adapt the scale so as to meet the different conflicting interests, and not unduly favour anybody. We must not, of course, in the first place, do anything that would protect the British refiner to the disadvantage of the British consumer, and, on the other hand, we must give fair play to the British refiner as compared with his Continental rival. We must be prepared to treat cane sugar and beet sugar alike; we must not favour the refiner of beet sugar as against the refiner of cane sugar, or *vice versa*, because if we favoured the refiner of beet sugar (and most of the refining here is of beet sugar) we should be extremely unfair to a colonial product; and if we favoured the refiner of cane sugar we should simply throw the business of refining beet sugar into the hands of our French or German rivals. Therefore the framing of the scale has necessarily been a matter of great difficulty and delicacy; but I wish the Committee to understand, and the trade to understand, that it must be looked upon as a tentative scale. We have worked on the best materials we could obtain, and we shall be perfectly ready to listen to criticism with regard to it, and to benefit by the teaching of experience or better knowledge.

There are some articles classed as sugar to which this scale could not apply; for example, molasses. Molasses cannot be tested by the polariscope, and we are, therefore, obliged to name a fixed duty for molasses. More than half the molasses imported is used in distilleries. It would be perfectly possible, I believe, that that should be sent to the distilleries under bond, but under the term molasses are included what are called grocery syrups, and articles of that kind, which are largely consumed by the poor. We have, therefore, thought that a duty of 2s. a cwt. on molasses would be as high as it ought to be placed, and that is the duty we propose. Glucose is another product of which a great deal has been heard lately. Glucose contains, I believe, 45 per cent. of pure sugar; it is said to be used principally for the manufacture of jam, of aerated waters, and beer. So many persons have suggested to me that aerated waters ought to be taxed that I think they will not object to this indirect taxation on aerated waters. And, with regard to beer, I confess I do not myself see any reason why sugar and glucose used by brewers should not pay duty. They need not use it unless they like, and we have understood from the recent debates that a very small proportion is necessary. Therefore I propose to put a duty on glucose of 1s. 8d. per cwt. The duty that would be paid would be very small, either on that or on the low class of sugar which I believe is as a rule used in breweries. I certainly suppose that the additional taxation on breweries, having regard to the comparatively light taxation of the alcohol in beer relatively to spirits, is one they can very well stand. I have received very many representations from brewers to a contrary effect, and I will only say this, that at present I am of opinion that the sugar and glucose used in breweries ought to bear a tax, but that I am open to hear what may be alleged to the contrary before coming to a final decision.

There is one matter with regard to this tax to which I ought to allude, and that is the position of the manufacturers who use sugar in their business. A great deal has been said about that lately in the anticipation that a tax on sugar was to be proposed. The importance of the trade, I think, has been somewhat exaggerated. I do not at all deny that it is a useful and flourishing trade, but it is not a very large trade as compared with that of the whole country. On that account, however, there is no reason why it should not be justly dealt with, and I do not believe that the manufacturers who use sugar will be injured in any measure to the extent that they anticipate. Take, in the first place, their home market. They seem to anticipate a very large reduction in the consumption; I do not believe it will be so; I think that the people have got habituated to sugar—the use of goods, I mean, which contain sugar in their manufacture. I am certain that the condition of the people is better than it was in 1893, when, as I have just reminded the Committee, the price of sugar was as much as it would be now with the tax added to it, and I cannot myself believe that the consumption of these goods will seriously diminish in the country on account of the imposition of his tax. Take, again, their export trade. Of course, provision will be made for imposing import duties on the manufactured articles that come from foreign countries in competition with them, under the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, 1876, and for allowing manufacturers drawback on the articles which they export; and therefore I do not see that, beyond the trouble, which no doubt will be something, and the additional charges they will be put to for the interest on the duty they will have to pay, these manufacturers will have any cause to complain. It is, as I have said, a flourishing trade; if they require additional capital for the purpose they can raise it; and I have no doubt they will take care, as the tobacco manufacturers take care, that they receive very good interest on the capital they have to put into it. I should add that, in the case of saccharine, an article said to be several hundred times as sweet as sugar, which is used in certain manufactures, the tax must, in fairness to sugar, be very high; the tax I propose is 20s. a pound. Now I come to the statement of what we may anticipate will be the yield of the duty. We have lost three weeks of the present year, during which time there have been certain anticipatory importations of sugar which have, of course, increased the supply in the country. I put the yield of the tax for the year in which we stand at £5,100,000, after allowing £200,000 for drawbacks on exports and £40,000 for the expenses of collection.

I now come to another proposal for taxation. It is a novel proposal, or at least of a kind that has not been known in this country for fifty-five years. It is a tax which is not a direct tax, in my mind, because it will not be paid, as I believe, by the producer of the article; nor, on the other hand, is it a tax which falls within the ordinary description of indirect taxation, because I do not think it will be borne by consumers in this country. It is a tax which will affect only a part of the United Kingdom and which will not trouble Ireland at all, except, perhaps, to the benefit of those who live there. It is an export duty of one shilling a ton on coal. Now, of course, I know the stock arguments against export duties, but I am not going to deal with them, for the simple reason that coal has always been accepted as a material occupying a unique position. It is not like corn, or wool, or cotton, or timber, raw materials which the beneficence of nature and the labour of man are continually producing; coal once extracted from our earth is gone. It is capital, not interest. On the other hand, coal is not like those mineral ores which are exported by many countries which cannot use them profitably for themselves. Coal is the life-blood of our industries, it is essential to the comfort of our great population. Without coal our great industries would languish, our population would diminish and decay.

Coal is what has made Great Britain what she is, and the absence of coal in my belief is a main reason for the comparative poverty of Ireland. Therefore, two of the greatest men who, through the last century, have dealt with the finance of this country have considered coal on a different footing from other materials. I refer to Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone. In 1842 Sir Robert Peel readjusted the export coal duty, and what did he say on that occasion? He said—

> "I must say I cannot conceive any more legitimate object of a reasonable and just duty than coal exported to foreign countries."

When he abolished the duty in 1845, why did he abolish it? Not because he objected to the duty itself—because, in the first place, the yield of it then was very small, the export was, I believe, only about 1½ million tons, and there were many exemptions—but mainly because as he argued it was his desire to establish the principle that there should be no duty leviable in regard to exports, and he did not think it wise to reserve coal as an exception. I cannot help thinking that if at that time the export of coal had amounted to 46 million tons, as it did last year, Sir Robert Peel would not have included it in his proposals for abolition. Then what did Mr. Gladstone say? He was at that time Vice-President of the Board of Trade, and the yield of the duty was estimated at £130,000. But Mr. Gladstone was not influenced by the small yield of the duty. He said that he believed

> "the sum could be raised in no less objectionable a way, and that no duty could be more fair. If this country, by her superior natural advantages, could afford to supply coal on such terms as to make it for the advantage of foreign nations to buy it in preference to the coal of other places, those foreign nations had no right to complain of a duty placed on the exportation of the article not intended to put a stop to the trade. It was proposed to make the wealth that was given us subserve the interests of the country, not only in the way of trade, but of revenue."

This last sentence brings me to a matter of great importance. We must not, in aiming at revenue, sacrifice trade.

Now I want, if I may ask the patient attention of the Committee, to detail to them the reasons that make me believe that a shilling duty on coal will not sacrifice trade. Of course, our coal exports are an important item in our export trade. In 1845, after the repeal of the duty, they amounted to rather more than two million tons, and the duty amounted to 1½ per cent. of the total value of our exports. In 1889—that is, forty-four years afterwards—they had risen to 5 per cent. of the total value of exports; and in 1899 they had risen to 8 per cent. of the total value of exports. In 1900—and of course in all these statements I do not include bunker coal, of which 11¾ millions were exported last year for the use of ships on voyage—in 1900, owing to the enormous rise in prices, and also, let the Committee mark, to the rise of 7 per cent. in the amount of exports of coal, the total value of coal exported amounted to 12 per cent. of the total value of our exports. Of course, we receive for our exports in coal goods from other countries, and that export provides remunerative freight for our shipping, enabling them to bring back commodities from foreign countries at lower rates than would otherwise be possible; but let the Committee consider where our coal trade goes to. I have said that the total exports of coal last year amounted to forty-six million tons. Now of that amount 88 per cent. went to Europe and the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. Russia, Scandinavia, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy took two-thirds of the whole exports. Now let me remind the Committee that in this year, when the total amount of our exports of coal had increased by 7 per cent., there was an enormous increase in shipment f.o.b. prices. I have examined the returns of exports of coal f.o.b. at sixteen English, Welsh, and Scotch ports for 1899 and 1900, and I find that the increase per ton in 1900, as compared with 1899 (a very good year for coalowners), was in very few cases less than 4s. per ton, and ranged from 4s. a ton to as high as 7s. 2d. a ton. And what were the average freights? I take the freights from two places and compare them per ton in 1896 and 1900, from the Tyne and from Cardiff. From the Tyne to St. Petersburg they increased 3s. 6d., to Sweden 2s. 1d., to Hamburg 1s., to Bordeaux 1s. 6d., to Portugal 2s. 3d., to Italy 4s. 1d., and to Egypt 6s. From Cardiff the increases in freight in 1900 over 1896 were:—To St. Petersburg 4s., to Germany 1s. 8d., to Bordeaux 1s. 7d., to Havre 1s. 5d., to Portugal 2s. 9d., to Italy 3s. 7d., and to Egypt 5s. 4d. Remember these are increases in freight, not the actual charges for freights. Now, had this any effect on trade? It had the effect of increasing trade. It might have been supposed that the American competition, of which we hear a good deal, would have diminished the British trade, for, whereas the average price of British coal in 1900 f.o.b. at ports of shipment was 16s. 3d. per ton, the average price of American coal at ports of shipment in the same year was 10s. 6d. per ton. But we increased our trade to Europe in 1900 as compared with the preceding year by no less than 3,500,000 tons, in spite of increase in prices and freight. The American trade to Europe increased only by 600,000 tons. Practically, then, I think I have shown we held the market. But that is not all. Our trade was not only able to bear this increase in price, it was also able to bear an import duty in several of those countries to which our coal goes.

France, to which we sent last year 8,635,000 tons—2,000,000 more than we sent in the previous year—charges 11¾d. per ton import duty on our coal. Russia charges at her northern ports 1s. 11¾d. per ton. We sent to Russia 3,229,000 tons. To Spain, which charges 2s. per ton, we sent 2,619,000 tons; Denmark charges 1s. per ton, and we sent 2,125,000 tons; Portugal charges 1s. 6¾d., and we sent her 787,000 tons. Why is this? I contend that our coal is of a class, taking the bulk of it, which the European consumer cannot do without, and that is certainly true of the coal in South Wales, which is almost entirely steam coal. I believe it is largely true of the coal in the north of England, which is gas coal of almost as superior a quality of its kind as the steam coal of South Wales. Therefore, I contend that the imposition of 1s. duty (which, let me point out to the Committee, is infinitely less than the fluctuations of the price through which over a long series of years our exports of coal have shown a continual increase) would do no real injury at all to our coal trade. I argue that from the facts of last year. But I am fortified in that argument by expert opinion, and the expert is fortunately also a Member of this House. I refer to the hon. Member for Merthyr. I do not know whether he is present. In 1897 the hon. Member for Merthyr wrote a book, and a very interesting book it is. I have read it with great pleasure as the product of an hon. Member who is himself largely interested in this very trade, and who has the confidence of a large part of the population in South Wales, who are also largely interested in it. The conclusions at which the hon. Member arrived, stated, as they were, at a time of depression in the trade, are peculiarly applicable to the present moment, when prices of course have largely fallen as compared with what they were last year. What did the hon. Member say? He will excuse me, I am sure, for quoting his conclusions generally. He wrote, of course, of steam coal alone, which forms nearly the whole of the Welsh export of 18,000,000 tons last year, and also forms a very large part of the exports of the whole country. He thought that in 1897 we were selling that coal to the foreigner too cheaply, and that a very simple combination among the producers to fix the price——

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): Not to fix the price. I am afraid the right hon. Gentleman has not read me carefully. I was very careful to abstain from any attempt to fix the price.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Well, let us say to raise the price, would easily make the foreigner pay 2s. per ton more than he was paying then without any risk of losing the trade.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: It was at a time of depression, and very different from what it is now.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Quite so. So much the better for me. The hon. Member pointed out in his book that steam coal is an article of prime necessity to the consumer. He did not believe that the temporary depression in price which existed in 1897 had been brought about by foreign competition, and I think events have proved that he was right. He pointed out the great advantages which our exporting collieries had as compared with the European coal fields in their proximity to sea ports (there can be no doubt of that), and he showed by an admirable argument—I wish I could reproduce the whole of it—that Welsh coal has practically a monopoly in the markets to which the bulk of it is shipped; that among such markets the only place where it meets with serious competition is the Baltic, where its competitor is our own north country coal, and therefore Welsh and north country coal producers may safely raise their prices to a remunerative level without running serious risks of materially affecting the demand. Of course, the hon. Member is not infallible, but he is a great authority, and I accept his argument with one difference, that when he and his friends raise the price of their exported coal by 2s. per ton, I ask them to give me half of it. Of course, it may be said that the hon. Member's views and my argument may be perfectly true of the better class of coal which is exported from this country, but that there is an inferior class of coal exported in which we can have no monopoly at all. With regard to that, I think I may remind the Committee that in the years between 1842 and 1845, when there was an export duty of 1s. per ton on small coal, the exports of small coal very largely increased, although at that time it was said to be worth no more than 1s. 6d. per ton at the pit's mouth; and the average price of our exports of coal at the present day shows, I think, clearly that the exports of coal of small values must form a very small proportionate amount of our whole exports. But supposing the increase in the export trade of coal in this country was checked, supposing it was even diminished, I am not quite sure that even that result would be an unmixed evil. What would happen? Either that the coal would continue to be produced, in which case it would be sold more cheaply to the consumer here, or it would not continue to be produced, and it would be husbanded for future consumption. I am not a believer in the approach, within any time that we can foresee, of the exhaustion of our coalfields. But I think that the part of those coalfields which can be cheaply worked has in some parts of the country already come perilously near exhaustion, and that we may be within measurable distance of a time when owing to that the increased price of coal may be so great as to be a material injury to our industries and to the bulk of our population. If there were any force in that view at all, any check in the increase of our exports, or even some diminution, would not be an unmixed evil to the country as a whole, whose interests must first be considered, whatever might be the immediate effect upon the owners or miners of coal.

I have said that in my judgment this duty will fall on the consumer abroad. Among these customers abroad, however, we must not forget that there is our own shipping interest. They not only take their bunker coal, on which I have said the duty would not be levied, when they start on voyages from this country, but stores of coal are sent to different places abroad, which they purchase for their use when they arrive at those places. I do not think it would be feasible, I must own, to make an exemption on behalf of our shipping industry in this matter. But the additional price which they would have to pay for their coal would be but a small percentage on the cost of that coal at the foreign port at which they have to buy it, and the burden that it might impose on the shipping industry would be the merest trifle when compared with the burden imposed upon that industry by the great increase in the price of coal last year or on previous occasions; and I must say that, having regard to the enormous profits which the shipping industry has been making of late years, having regard to the fact that it of all industries in this country may be fairly expected to make some contribution, some special contribution, towards the increasing cost of our Navy, I do not think I am asking too much of the shipping industry if I ask it to bear this small additional burden, for, after all, they can relieve themselves of it to a great extent if they choose. This coal is exported, as I have shown, mainly to ports in Europe and the Mediterranean. They are short voyages. If the merchant chooses, he can devote more bunker space in his ship to coal and less to his cargo, and escape the duty altogether. I think I am making no unreasonable demand on the patriotism of the shipping industry. I may say that the yield of this duty will, I expect, be £2,100,000.

The Committee will see that I propose to raise by way of additional taxation £3,800,000 this year from income tax, £5,100,000 from sugar, £2,100,000 from coal—£11,000,000 in all. The result of my in dealing with this matter will be not merely to retain the existing proportions of direct *versus* indirect taxation, but to adjust them in favour of indirect taxation. In 1899 out of our taxation, calculated on the regular basis, 48·4 was derived from direct taxation and 51·6 from indirect taxation. Last year 49·3 per cent. was derived from direct taxation and 50·7 per cent. from indirect taxation. This year I must omit the coal duty from the comparison, because if it is paid by the producer, which I do not expect, it would be direct taxation, and if it is paid by the consumer, as I expect, it would be paid abroad. Omitting it, therefore, from our calculation, the proportion this year would be 50·3 per cent. of direct taxation and 49·7 per cent. of indirect taxation—for the first time more direct taxation than indirect taxation.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I do not quite understand that.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Because of the largely-increased yield of the Income Tax and Death Duties. I do not think that the advocates of the interests of the working classes need complain of such a balance as that. It is a result which, as I believe, Chancellors of the Exchequer for the last sixty years have endeavoured to arrive at, and I think it is opportune that the result should be arrived at in a year when I have been obliged to find a new item of indirect taxation in order to widen the basis of our existing taxes.

My final balance-sheet, then, will be as follows:—I estimate that the Customs will produce £30,800,000; Excise, £33,100,000; Death Duties, £14,000,000; Stamps, £8,000,000; Land Tax and House Duty, £2,500,000; Income Tax, £33,800,000; total taxation revenue, £122,200,000. Add to that non-taxation revenue, £21,055,000, and we have a total revenue of £143,255,000.

I propose to reduce the expenditure, as I did last year, by again suspending the Sinking Fund. That will bring down the expenditure to £182,962,000. Deducting the revenue from that, there will be a deficit on the Estimates of £39,707,000; but to that, of course, I have to add, say, a million and a quarter for interest on the fresh debt which I shall have to incur.

And as I am referring to that point, perhaps I may say that I must ask the Committee to give me borrowing powers considerably in excess of that sum of nearly £41,000,000, for these two reasons. In the first place, as I pointed out to the Committee when I was going through my estimate of expenditure, our estimate of the expenditure on the wars in China and South Africa is ten millions less than was actually expended on those wars last year. Well, Sir, I want to be on the safe side. I have been often charged with under estimating the cost of the war in the figures I have placed before the House, and I must add something to my borrowing powers on that account. But, further, there is a very necessary addition to the borrowing powers which must be made on account of the way in which the revenue accrues to the Exchequer. When we levy, as we do this year, so large a proportion of our revenue upon the income tax, the result is that the great receipt of the revenue is in the last quarter, and that the first three quarters are comparatively void. And therefore I must ask for additional powers, to the extent of, say, £10,000,000, in order to finance the Exchequer during the first three quarters. Of course, if anticipations are realised, which hon. Gentlemen opposite do not seem to entertain, and the whole is not required, I can easily devote the surplus towards paying off our war Treasury bills or other portions of our debt. Therefore, Sir, I shall ask the Committee to give me when the time comes borrowing powers to the extent of £60,000,000.

Now I come to a question on which I think it right to say something to the Committee, and that is whether, with regard to this borrowing, we are able in any way to look to the Transvaal. When we met last December I held out hopes to the Committee that I should be able, on the occasion of this Budget, to say something definite as to a proposal for obtaining from the Transvaal some contribution towards the cost of the war. I informed the Committee that we had appointed Sir David Barbour to visit the Transvaal and to report upon the financial situation and upon the prospects of such a contribution. Sir David Barbour undertook the commission, but I need not say the prolongation of the war has very much hindered and deterred him in his work. It has been practically impossible for him to complete the inquiry in the time which I anticipated, and therefore I have no report from him at the present moment. But I have received some preliminary observations, which in all frankness I ought to state to the Committee, although, I am sorry to say, they are not of a very encouraging character. Sir David Barbour informs me that it would be impossible to arrive at any definite or final conclusion regarding the amount of contribution to the cost of the war that could be fairly claimed from the Transvaal until a considerable period has elapsed after the restoration of peace and the establishment of civil government. He puts that period at two or three years. I think the Committee will understand that the prolongation of the war has brought the Transvaal for the time almost to the verge of ruin.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): Is it not the fact that there are the gold mines which are not ruined?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I do not want to enter upon controversial topics now. The ruin is the fault of those who have prolonged a hopeless struggle. Sir David Barbour goes on to say that he does not think anything towards the cost of the war can be expected from the Orange River Colony, and I have never held out the faintest hopes to the Committee that anything of the kind could be expected—unless, of course, some mineral wealth should be discovered with which we are not acquainted. But, with regard to the Transvaal, he says that, owing to the condition to which the country has been reduced, there must be a heavy deficit for two years after the conclusion of the war in the charges for the administration of the country, even allowing for the increase of taxation after the mines are reopened and business is resumed, which I have no reason whatever to doubt it will be perfectly possible to impose. This, of course, shows that we cannot expect any immediate or early contribution from the Transvaal towards the cost of the war. But that is all the more reason why we should keep the matter in view, for what does Sir David Barbour go on to say? He says that he is satisfied that there is a large and valuable property belonging to the Transvaal Government, composed of bank and railway securities, mineral rights such as the Bewaarplaatzen, and other rights over land known to be rich in minerals, which he puts at even a higher value; and, besides, an immense area of country in which minerals have not yet been worked, but in which it is considered very probable that they exist. He has not made an accurate estimate of the value of all this property. [Opposition laughter.] How could he do so when war was going on in the country? But, of course, it is clear that such property can only be gradually realised, and the amount and time of payment of any contribution towards the cost of the war must considerably depend upon its successful realisation. That, Sir, is the position. We shall keep our claim alive, and when prosperity returns to the Transvaal, as we believe it will return when peace is restored, I have so arranged the borrowings hitherto sanctioned by Parliament that they will mature from time to time at such intervals that it will be easy for anyone having charge of the finance of this country, if the Transvaal is in a position to give good security for a loan, to enable it to pay a reasonable contribution towards the cost of the war, and to raise a loan to be devoted to paying off such portion of our borrowings as may be possible. Now I would remind the Committee that so far we have borrowed towards the cost of the war £67,000,000 — £13,000,000 Treasury bills, £10,000,000 Exchequer Bonds maturing rather less than three years hence, £14,000,000 Exchequer Bonds maturing about five years hence, and £30,000,000 War Loan maturing in 1910—and, Sir, I think it is clear that any contribution that can be obtained from the Transvaal cannot, at any rate, exceed that £67,000,000. We cannot, I mean, take any question of Transvaal contribution into consideration in dealing with the fresh borrowing which I now ask the Committee to authorise. Now, Sir, in what mode may we fairly borrow such a large sum as we now require? This can no longer be considered a small war. Let me just make a statement to the Committee as to what, so far, the estimated cost of this war has been. In 1899–1900 the Estimates of the cost were £23,217,000. Last year they were £68,620,000, and this year's Estimates amount to £60,230,000, including in each case the interest on the sums borrowed. That amounts to over £152,000,000.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Go to the German Jews.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I must ask the Committee to remember that in those figures I include the cost of both the South African and Chinese wars. Then I have to add a million and a quarter for interest in this year's borrowing, making in all over £153,000,000. This is double the cost of the Crimean War, and when I look back at the Peninsular War I find the two most expensive years were 1813 and 1814. The forces engaged, of course, were very much smaller than those engaged now; but in those two years the total cost of our Army and Navy amounted to £144,581,000. This amount is less than the charges for the South African and Chinese wars, in which, the Committee must remember, the ordinary cost of our Army and Navy, amounting to sixty millions this year, is not included. Therefore I think I am justified in saying that in cost this has been a great war. I think, then, it is clear we can no longer, in borrowing towards the cost of it, rely on temporary borrowing. We have already £67,000,000 of unfunded debt borrowed for this purpose and maturing within the next ten years. We have also some £36,000,000 of the old funded debt of 2¾ and 2½ per cent., redeemable in 1905. Therefore, whatever may be the prosperity of the country, whatever may be the condition of our finances, it is perfectly obvious to my mind, that the staunchest advocate of the redemption of the debt will have ample scope for his energies in the years that are before us. For this reason I propose to ask the Committee to extend the powers of borrowing, which they gave me in previous Acts, to Consols. I believe that that is a necessary option on the present occasion.

I think I have now finished the task which I set before me. I have to thank the Committee for the patience with which they have listened to me. I think they will do me the justice to say that I have not attempted to conceal anything, however unpleasant it might be for me to state it, in the financial condition of the country. I have tried to put before them a full account of the condition of our finances in the present and in the immediate future. I have seen it stated that in our time no Chancellor of the Exchequer has had so difficult a task. I am sure that no Chancellor of the Exchequer has had a more indulgent audience. Sir, I have thought it necessary—we have thought it necessary—in the present financial situation, to propose a departure of great importance from that system of taxation to which we have all become accustomed, and from which, I think, very few of us would be willing to depart. I have laid my proposals on that matter before the Committee. Of course, they will receive strong criticism. They may be met with strenuous opposition. But I have not made them, as I have not made my speech, with any view to gain transient popularity. It is easy for a Minister in charge of the Army or the Navy to come down to Parliament and propose some enormous increase in the Estimates, and to receive his meed of popular applause. I know very well that when his colleague comes down and proposes new and, perhaps, objectionable taxation in order to find the means, he may meet with a very different reception. But, Sir, I would remind hon. Members that with regard to the cost of the South African and the Chinese wars, with regard to the great and the continuous increase in the Estimates for our ordinary expenditure, the great majority of this House have, year by year, during the last five years, encouraged, demanded, and approved that expenditure; and, further, their decision has been ratified at a General Election by the voice of the people. I will not rate the intelligence of my fellow-countrymen so low as to suppose that when they supported and cheered this expenditure they did not know that they would have to pay the bill. When I remember that among those who supported it were the working classes—the majority of the working classes—and when I also remember that the working classes in many matters set to us all an example of unselfishness, I will not think so ill of them as to imagine that they supported this expenditure with the idea that it should all be put on other shoulders than their own. All increased taxation is odious—I know that very well. I defy anyone to suggest a new tax that shall not be odious; but if one kind of taxation is more odious than any other it is unfair taxation; and I can conceive nothing more unfair than that the policy of this country, and the increased expenditure it may cause, should be controlled by the voice of the whole of the people, and that one class alone should be left to bear the increased burden. Sir, at any rate, the principle of my Budget is in direct opposition to that view. Parliament may accept it or reject it. If they reject it, they will, at least, relieve us from a burden heavy enough in any case, but which would then become insupportable. If they accept it, they will have done something to establish that principle of equitable contribution of the whole community to the burdens of the State which is not merely an incentive to economy and peace, but which is a necessary safeguard against financial ruin.

SUGAR.—CUSTOMS.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That there shall be charged on and after the nineteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and one, the following customs import duties:—

		s.	d.
Sugar of a polarisation exceeding 98 degrees	the cwt.	4	2
Sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 76 degrees	,,	2	0
and intermediate duties varying between 4s. 2d. and 2s. on sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 98 and exceeding 76 degrees.			
Molasses (including all sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be tested by the polariscope)	,,	2	0
Glucose	,,	1	8
Saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use) ...	the oz.	1	3

And that duty shall be charged in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1876, on goods containing as a part or ingredient thereof any article liable to any of the above duties.

And that the exemption under the same Schedule from the duty on plums or plums preserved in sugar shall cease."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: It would be superfluous on my part to offer to the Chancellor of the Exchequer testimony to the ability and lucidity of his statement. But that statement was characterised by qualities higher than ability and lucidity. It was characterised by honesty. It was characterised by the quality which has been so very much wanting in the conduct of this war—the quality of telling this House and the country the real truth. I am not going to discuss the particular proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-night. That we shall reserve for a future occasion. I will only say, as a representative of one of the great coal exporting districts of this country, including the great exporting towns of Newport and Cardiff, that the right hon. Gentleman cannot expect our support for the proposal to reproduce, after the expiration of half a century, the principle of export duties which, ever since the time when Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone became complete converts to the principle of free trade in 1845, has never been reproduced in this country.

But I would ask leave to make some observations on the general financial condition of the country to-day. After all, this Budget is only a chapter in that disastrous history. It does not pretend to be a final account. In former times we have had months fixed at which the war was to be over. But this war corresponds to the poet's description of happiness; it " never is, but always to be "—over. We have had no repetition of these prognostications of the termination of the war to-day. We are to borrow £127,000,000 in all. That is four times as much as was borrowed for the Crimean War. The money borrowed for the Crimean War was £30,000,000. Up to the present time the cost of this war has been £148,000,000, and what it will be before it is over the right hon. Gentleman does not even conjecture. These are generalisations which may give the House of Commons pause and deserve our careful consideration. There is one point only in the whole of that statement which we may regard with satisfaction, and that is the extraordinary, the unexpected, the unhoped for productiveness of the revenue. You have a revenue of £140,000,000, for I include in it, of course, that £10,000,000 which has been hidden away by that miserable process of diverting revenue from the Exchequer which is known under the name of subsidies. That sum of £140,000,000 is double what the revenue was some thirty years ago. What has been the source of that enormous increase in the revenue? It has been the soundness of the financial principles persistently acted upon in this country for more than half a century. It has been the maintenance of the principles established and discovered, it may be said, by Sir Robert Peel, enlarged by the genius of Mr. Gladstone, and, to do justice to the Government of Lord Beaconsfield, faithfully followed by Sir Stafford Northcote. They were principles which enabled you in fifty years to discharge £200,000,000 of the Debt of this country.

In eighteen months you have increased the Debt of this country by £127,000,000. I venture to say that before the liabilities which this war will carry with it are ended you will have absorbed the whole of that 200 millions, which represent the economies of the last half-century. Out of that revenue you have been able to apply immense sums to the increase of your Army and your Navy You have devoted large sums to the education of the people, and you have diverted large sums in subsidies. Contemporaneously with this, you have seen an immense increase in the comfort and well-being of all classes of people in this country. You have seen the working classes with their better wages and higher standard of comfort. You have seen the income-tax payers largely increased in wealth and numbers. You have seen the realised wealth of the country, as displayed in the death duties, enormously increased. And why is that? Because your finance has been founded on sound principles of taxation. I always hear with satisfaction the principles of taxation and finance expounded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He always seems to me, as I listen admiringly to his exposition of those principles, to be as one crying in the wilderness in the midst of the immense majority around him. I was very glad to hear his exposition of those principles to-night. I cannot say that I always agree with the application of the principles; but with the principles themselves I am always able to concur. Never was it more necessary that those principles should be understood, vindicated, and asserted by men in authority. We are living in a day of newspaper finance, in which it is proposed to reverse all those principles which have led to the creation of the enormous revenue and prosperity of this country. We are told that we are to go back on all these ideas and principles, which experience has shown are the foundations of a revenue which is the admiration and envy of all nations.

What are the principles on which we have realised this revenue of £140,000,000? What was the revenue before you adopted those principles? What were those principles discovered by Sir Robert Peel and expanded by Mr. Gladstone? The first was simplification of taxation—the raising of large sums on few articles. The second was that you should never levy taxation upon protective principles, or so as to raise the price of the commodity beyond the amount of the benefit to the Exchequer. These are the two fundamental principles of taxation which have given you the revenue which you now enjoy. It is well that those principles should be asserted and demonstrated as they have been by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-day; and, without distinction of party, I for one at least will always support any man, on whatever side of the House, who maintains what I believe and know to be for the financial interests of this great country. So much for the revenue. But if the revenue has increased beyond hope, the expenditure has increased beyond belief. I who immediately preceded the right hon. Gentleman, on the last occasion on which I spoke as responsible for the finances of the country, ventured to address the same warning to the House as that of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to the increasing expenditure of the country. But during the last five years this Government has been in office, as the right hon. Gentleman very fairly admitted, the increase of the expenditure has been nearly 30 millions. That is a fact which it is necessary for this House to bear in mind in dealing with the Budget and finance of the country. The expenditure of the country is stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-day at £183,000,000; and that is after you have depleted your expenditure by taking £4,800,000 from the Sinking Fund, which has hitherto been devoted to the reduction of debt. Therefore the expenditure has been something like £187,000,000.

The right hon. Gentleman is perfectly right in warning this House and the country that you cannot go on at the present rate without involving this country in financial ruin. If these were the last words I had to speak in this House they would be to endorse the warning which the right hon Gentleman has given. I do not envy his successor. I only hope that he will, like himself, renew some effort to prevent a course which I am certain will lead to the discredit and the injury of the nation. We have new doctrines upon this subject of taxation, and I should say that on the whole the fashionable doctrine at the present time is that all taxation should be taken off the rich and put on the poor. [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh."] Yes, read the organs of the moneyed classes; read *The Times* newspaper; read the development of the doctrine which in substance is thus stated—"That it is the men possessing from £5,000 to £50,000 a year upon whom increased taxation more heavily bears in consequence of their poor relations and their subscriptions. Therefore, what you have to do is to do away with direct taxation and put the whole of that taxation on indirect sources of revenue." That is the doctrine of the organs of the moneyed classes, but I hope a Chancellor of the Exchequer will never adopt a doctrine of that description. But as I read this newspaper finance it seems to me that the fashionable doctrine of to-day may be condensed into two words—conscription and protection.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Hear, hear.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: The hon. Member is the champion of both.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Not conscription.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Does anyone believe that this expenditure and this borrowing is not going to be increased? Has anyone read the despatch of Sir Alfred Milner, which was only delivered to us this morning? This despatch, by the way, was in the hands of His Majesty's Government on 25th February, almost immediately after the meeting of the House, but which we have not been allowed to see for two months after it came into their hands. Why has it been withheld? We have had discussions to which it would have been a most valuable contribution, but it was locked up by the Government, who have likewise withheld the Report of the Secretary to the Admiralty upon the settlement of South Africa. What does Sir Alfred Milner say in this Report? He tells you that the last six months, of this war have been retrogressive, and that the condition of things is much worse in South Africa than it was six months ago. He gives an account of the backward condition of the contest in South Africa during the last six months, and how much better it was before.

There is another thing in which I can agree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He says it is not only the expenditure on the war which is so formidable, it is the growth of the normal expenditure of this country, and the fact that if the war was over to-morrow the war taxes raised last year on the expectation of ending the war have been already swallowed up in the increase of your normal expenditure. That is a most dangerous condition of things. But expenditure will not cease with the war. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us that as soon as the war has ceased we are going to enter upon a *damnosa hereditas* of colonies which, as Sir Alfred Milner points out, are more extensive than the whole of France and the United Kingdom put together. You have to deal with that condition of things; you have to repair that ruin, and it has to be done at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. You cannot have listened to the Chancellor of the Exchequer without being convinced that at all events for a time, which he does not profess to limit, the whole cost of the reparation of the injury which has been done to that unhappy country must come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of this country. That is a thing which is without doubt. Then you are to have a land settlement. You have sent out the Secretary to the Admiralty to report upon the subject. He has come back, and he has reported. Unfortunately he reported to the Colonial Office, and so we have not had the Report. It did not suit the purpose of the Colonial Office, and the Colonial Secretary told us that he would not give it to us now, and possibly it might never be given to us. But Sir David Barbour has reported to the Treasury, on the probable resources of the country, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer with his usual frankness has given us an account of what we may expect from them. That is the difference between the spirit in which the House is treated by the Colonial Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We have had a scheme propounded—I do not know whether it is an inspired scheme of *The Times* newspaper—for this settlement in South Africa when the war is over. The object of that settlement is fairly stated. It is to establish in South Africa a British garrison and a British electorate. Those are the two objects of the land settlement which is contemplated, and as far as I have read Sir Alfred Milner's despatches, that also is his view. But you are also to have irrigation, railways for the purpose of these settlements, and education in the Transvaal for the Boers, which is to be attractive to men of University education. What is the scheme going to cost? Mark what is happening. The whole of the stock of that country is either destroyed or in the course of being destroyed. You have to restock the whole of that country; you are going to offer to the people who will settle there sufficient inducements to set them up in farming in a country co-extensive with France and the United Kingdom. How many millions do you think that is going to cost? Just try and think what would be the cost of establishing such a settlement as that and how it is to be done. This country is going into a great land speculation. It is to establish men of whom we do not know anything, and to depend upon their solvency for the return of our money. What is propounded in *The Times* newspaper is that there should be a land bank, in which the British taxpayers are to be the shareholders. That is a prospect, I think, of borrowing many more millions.

There was a very Interesting part of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer referring to his hopes of obtaining some thing out of the Transvaal and the Free State. First of all he gives up the Free State altogether; you are to have no contribution from the Orange River Colony, and that is a bad job. It was, I suppose, one of the most happy and flourishing places before this war anywhere to be found, but it is so devastated, so destroyed, when it becomes a British colony that it can afford to pay nothing towards the cost of its own administration. In the controversy of the last two years between the right hon. Gentleman and myself I have indicated that I wished, as he wishes, to get something out of the Transvaal, but the more that question is examined the more it is seen how absolutely impossible it is you can get anything out of the Transvaal. The great extent of that country is ruined and devastated like the rest; there is nothing in it beyond the mines, and there is no hope of obtaining anything out of it any more than the Free State. What will be the revenue of that country? Before the war it was £4,000,000. Yet every source of that revenue has been condemned beforehand by the parties who promoted the war. They have condemned the profits made by the Netherlands Railway, the dynamite monopoly, the concessions, and the Customs. There is hardly a source of profit which these men have not pledged themselves to diminish, and therefore the revenue will be much less after the war is over. But what is to be the cost of the country? You have to police it. For that purpose you have the men who are to form Baden Powell's police. That, to begin with, at the rate of 10,000 men, will cost £2,500,000. But to try to police that country with 10,000 men is about as sensible as proposing to wage this war with 10,000 men. It is absurd on the face of it. Sir A. Milner, in his despatch, says you will get no assistance from any of the Dutch population—not even the loyal Dutch population. He says "the bulk of the Afrikander population will never take up arms on the side of the British in this quarrel, even for local defence"; therefore you must depend upon the men in the colony of British origin. "Oh, but," you say, "when the war is over the Boers will settle down." Do you really believe that? You are the people who told us that Kruger would never fight. You have entirely misconceived the situation, as you still misconceive the character of the problem you have to encounter. How are you going to get any revenue out of the gold mines? The right hon. Gentleman said that Mr. Robinson was going to help him, but I think the correspondence with that gentleman will have undeceived him upon that point. You will not get it out of the gold mines, because, first of all, the gold miners will not give it to you. And if they will not give it to you, remember, there is no other population on which you can rely to get any revenue at all. Therefore, if they will not pay, you will not get it. But they cannot pay, and I will tell you why. The whole question of the development of the Transvaal is the question of labour. Now, even in the flourishing times before the war there was an immense deficiency of labour in South Africa. The Member for Mansfield, in an article which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century*, tells us that the present labour in the Transvaal comes from Portuguese East Africa, and from nowhere else, and then he remarks that drink is the only thing the Kaffirs care for, and if you cannot offer them drink they will leave your mines. That is not a hopeful prospect, and he is reduced at last to say that you must have Chinese for gold mine labour. It comes, then, to this, that the hope of gold mining in South Africa depends upon the introduction of Chinese labour, which has been rejected by every

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society of white men, whether in America or Australia.

Now, even the Government are beginning to be ashamed of saying that the war is over, or that it is likely soon to be over. There is a phrase that I have heard, that "all is over except the shouting"; but here it is the shouting that is over, and not the war. The Colonial Secretary is now an optimist, although as such he has not been very successful. He was much more successful in the character of a prophet when he told us some time ago what would be the consequences of this war. He then said that it would be a long and costly war, and he was quite right. He said it would be a bitter war, and it is a bitter war. And he also said that its embers would remain for generations. Those treacherous embers lie hidden, and they may burst forth upon us at any moment. What is the situation now? It is summed up in the words of Sir A. Milner—

> "It is no use denying that the last half-year has been one of retrogression. Seven months ago this Colony was perfectly quiet, at least as far as the Orange River. The southern half of the Orange River Colony was rapidly settling down, and even a considerable portion of the Transvaal, notably the south-western districts, seemed to have definitely accepted British authority, and to rejoice at the opportunity of a return to orderly government, and the pursuits of peace. To-day the scene is completely altered."

There is the authentic account. It is not an account which was prepared for the General Election. If it had appeared at the General Election it might have had some effect. But I venture to think that the country is beginning already to ask what it is to profit by this war. It has got up to this time taxation and debt, and future liability which I think will cost you as much as the war has cost. What have you gained besides? You have gained the paralysis of all reform at home. There is the question of the housing of the poor. What has become of that? In connection with old-age pensions and education, what might have been done with that £140,000,000? It is all gone. Formerly when a war was over expenditure ceased and taxation was reduced. As soon as the French war was over that was done, though it took forty years before the mischief to the nation was recovered. But here the moment this war is over the beginning of a new expenditure takes its rise. When the Crimean War, which was waged not for the integrity of the British Empire but for the integrity of the Turkish Empire, was over there was nothing left except the liabilities of certain treaty obligations and guarantees, of which the best that can be said is that you never took any notice of them at all, and twenty years afterwards Lord Beaconsfield at Berlin consolidated the Turkish Empire (to use his own phrase) by depriving it of half its territory. Therefore there was not a great deal of harm done by the consequences of the Crimean War. But when this war is over expenditure will begin to rise. You will begin to expend money in setting up a population in the two Republics.

There is this curious thing which I have always observed about Imperialists—namely, that they have a great regard for the British Empire generally, but there is one part of the British Empire which they always forget, and that is the United Kingdom of forty millions of people, and I believe that one of the consequences of this war will be that this neglected corner of the Empire will insist upon some regard being paid to their interests. Can we not ask now, in this indefinite prospect of war, this endless perspective of increased and ever-increasing expenditure, is there yet no prospect of a settlement? I would ask the particular attention of the Committee to a portion of Sir Alfred Milner's despatch, and mark you, the Government were in possession of that despatch on 25th February. Sir Alfred Milner says—

> "The terms offered by Lord Kitchener, which are, in substance, identical with repeated declarations of policy on the part of His Majesty's Government, are generally regarded as a generous and statesmanlike offer, as one which, if firmly adhered to, will ultimately be accepted, but as an offer which we cannot afford to enlarge."

We did not enlarge them. we cut them down. Sir Alfred Milner proceeds—

> "On the other hand, there is a very general desire that no effort should be spared to make the generous character of our intentions widely known, and to encourage any disposition on the part of the enemy to parley, with the object of making them better acquainted with the terms on which we are prepared to accept their submission."

Here, then, you have Sir Alfred Milner saying that the loyal population in South Africa accepted as a good settlement the terms offered by Lord Kitchener (I suppose by this is intended the terms offered by Lord Kitchener in his conference with the burghers early in the year), and urging that if those terms were not immediately accepted they should still be firmly adhered to, and that we should encourage the enemy to parley in order that the offer might be made generally known and a settlement thus brought about. I ask the Committee to remember this, that the Government were in possession of that statement of Sir Alfred Milner when the Colonial Secretary cut down the terms offered to General Botha by Lord Kitchener, and declared that under no circumstances would he ever enter upon any further negotiations. The Government had that despatch in their pocket at the time the House was discussing the attempted settlement between General Botha and Lord Kitchener, and I say it was a most unfair proceeding to conceal it from the House, the withholding of that despatch at that time was a most unfair concealment from the House and the country. I am sorry the Colonial Secretary is not here, because I desire to challenge him on the subject of having concealed from the House a despatch which would have cast most light on the whole question at issue.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was quite right in saying that it was not this war only but other things that were leading to the financial ruin of the country. I ventured to offer that warning in 1895, but I did not then anticipate a policy of doles. In those days the doctrine was that we must arm against two Powers. We have done with that now. The doctrine now is that we are to arm against the world. We are told, and it is not an agreeable thing to hear, that we are hated by all the world. The Government think there is some advantage in perpetually repeating that statement. The Colonial Secretary luxuriates in it. He regards it as a complimentary detestation. He is never tired of boasting of it. He says it is a proof of our strength, for the strong are always hated, and only the weak are loved. Well, if to be hated is a proof of strength, then no one has contributed more than the right hon. Gentleman to the strength of this country. But I differ from that opinion. I do not think it follows that if a nation is strong it therefore must be hated. At the conclusion of the great war with Napoleon Great Britain was a great deal stronger than she is to-day. We had not then to seek after a reconstruction of our military system. We had no surrenders to inquire into and no disasters to investigate. With the record of Salamanca and Vittoria and Waterloo fresh in the memory of the world, the military prowess of this country was universally respected and admired. But England was then not only strong in military capacity, she was strong in the moral approbation of the world. It was felt that in that war we had made enormous sacrifices for the liberty of Europe as well as our own; that we we had contended against the gigantic tryanny of Napoleon, and we were regarded in a sense as the saviour of Europe. Do you command the same moral approbation now? It is a much more serious thing to have earned the hatred of the peoples than the hostility of Governments. I am sorry to say there is an unfortunate scepticism about us abroad. Most of the nations do not altogether believe in your inevitable war. They are doubtful whether your only object was the cause of liberty and civilisation. They look with some surprise at the manner in which you have fulfilled the declaration of the Prime Minister that he meant to annex no territory and appropriate no gold mines. These poeple may be all wrong in their conclusions, and I believe they are, but the sending out of 320,000 men to South Africa has not increased the opinion abroad of our military power; and the manner in which the contest has been waged and the objects which they think are aimed at have not increased the moral approbation of the nations in our regard. The political and moral problem of South Africa is deep, and, indeed, so far as we can see at present, is unfathomable. There are proposals for reconstruction, which to my mind are more formidable even than the war itself. I shall be told, of course, that this is pessimism. Yes, the worst that can be said of our pessimism

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is that it has too often turned out to be optimism. Month after month, and almost day after day, the reality of things makes the situation worse than we ever conceived it would be. But what of your optimism? By your optimism you perhaps first deluded yourself, and you certainly deceived the country. Your optimism has been belied at every stage of this lamentable contest, and it has found its natural expression to-night in the most disastrous financial statement that has ever been made by a Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons.

*Colonel MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon): I am sorry I cannot follow the right hon. Gentleman through all the arguments he has offered. As a great financial authority I should have thought he would have helped us by his counsel in the very difficult position we have now arrived at. The position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is a very difficult one. He had to impose large additional taxation on the country, and I believe he has done it in a way which will meet with general acceptance, because the taxes he has imposed have either been discounted beforehand or, as in the case of the export duty on coal, there was a general feeling on the part of a very large section of the population that it was desirable that such taxes should be imposed.

There is one matter in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement which raises a very important question, namely, whether some differential treatment should not be afforded to our colonies with reference to the taxation on sugar. They are already paying on sugar a tax equivalent to the bounty given by foreign countries, and now it is proposed to increase that tax by ½d. per pound. It seems to me that it would be very good policy on the part of this country to meet the colonies with reference to this particular matter. This is a very large and important question, and worthy of more than the cursory attention which can be given to it to-night, but I hope it will be raised at a later stage in a more serious form. I believe that the taxation of sugar will not be unpopular in this country. Money has to be raised, and the country, having approved of the policy of the war, will pay for the war. Sugar being at an abnormally low price, I think the Government were very wise in selecting it for the purposes of taxation. There are a few questions which I would venture to address to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The first is with reference to the drawback in the case of sugar refined in this country. Sugar refined abroad, of course, pays on the weight at which it is imported, but sugar refined in this country loses a certain percentage in the process. I have no doubt that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is aware of this matter.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I think that the scale which I explained to the House will give the kind of allowance to which my hon. friend refers.

*Colonel MILWARD: I am very glad to hear that. Then, as to the taxation of glucose, the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed to suggest that he was open to argument on the question. Brewers and confectioners use glucose, and if it is not taxed they may resort to its use more largely. I believe that both invert sugar and glucose must be taxed in order to deal fairly with the producers of beet and cane sugar. I hope there will be no difficulty in this matter. I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer is wrong with reference to the retail price of sugar after the duty. I only hope he may be right, but I think the increase in the retail price will be more than ½d. With reference to the expenses of the war in China, which my right hon. friend put down at £3,500,000, we were led to hope that the expenses would be repaid in a comparatively short time. As regards the income tax, I do not think the country will be dissatisfied at the increase of 2d. in the £. I would venture, however, to point out to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that on previous occasions when the income tax was 1s., or more than a 1s., it was paid by quarterly instalments. A large number of persons at present pay their income tax in one lump sum at the end of the year. I ventured to suggest last year, and I suggest it again now, that a part of the income tax might, at the option of the person paying it, be paid in July and August, interest to be allowed on the amount paid in advance. A great many persons would in that way avoid the tremendous strain of having to pay one large sum, and it would also be a great relief to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because five or six millions might be available when required. The Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared to look forward to a perpetual increase in the expenditure of this country. I believe it to be a wholesome plan for the purpose of checking expenditure that all expenditure has to go before the Treasury. I do not believe in the niggardliness of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is a very easy thing to spend money. Committees on county councils can spend whatever money they choose without check from their Finance Committee, but that is not the system of Government of this country, and I hope it never will be. Everybody wants money —the Army, the Navy, the Civil Service —and one of our greatest difficulties is that the State is itself the greatest employer of labour. I am very glad that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is firm in guarding the expenditure of the country, and I hope that every succeeding Chancellor of the Exchequer will be equally firm.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): I want to ask one question, as to how the duty on sugar is to be collected? Large shipments of refined sugar arrive every day in the ports of this country, and merchants are able to obtain possession of it without any serious impediment. A merchant wants facilities for getting delivery over the ship's side or at the quay of discharge, according to the terms of shipment, by a simple Customs endorsement on the bill of lading in exchange for the duty. At present when a bill of lading is received the merchant goes to the shipping office, and by paying the freight gets the bill of lading endorsed, and he is then enabled at once to get possession of his goods. My suggestion is that the bill of lading should be taken to the Custom House and should be endorsed in return for the Customs duty. Of course, the right hon. Gentleman clearly understands that I am only referring to refined sugar. It is most necessary, unless there is going to be a very large increase in the cost, that there should be no interference with free circulation. I shall be glad to explain the matter privately to the right hon. Gentleman.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I should be very much obliged to the hon. Member.

Mr. KEARLEY: Passing from that subject, the right hon. Gentleman who spoke last urged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to stand firm against the general demand for increased expenditure in all directions. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will also stand firm against any assault which may be made on him by the hon. Member for Central Sheffield or other hon. Members, with reference to a preposterous countervailing duty for the benefit of colonial sugar, which does not really count, as it is only nine per cent. of our total importation. To satisfy the colonial producer of sugar, you will have to give him 1s. 3d. per cwt., the equivalent of the bounty given by European countries, and you will also have to give him 15s. a ton to induce shipment to this country. At present he ships the bulk of his sugar to the United States on a 5s. freight, whereas the freight to this country is 20s. I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will kill any such proposal when made to him. It was suggested by the hon. Member who has just spoken that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was unduly sanguine when he anticipated that a halfpenny per pound extra would cover the cost to the consumer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has given a concession of 6d. to defray the attendant expenses that arise from the imposition of a duty, and I have no doubt he has been advised in this matter; but, without going into details, it is computed that it will cost the consumer at least a farthing per pound in addition to the duty. For example, the imposition of the duty will break through-rates. Sugar can now be shipped from any part of Europe direct to the smallest town in the kingdom, but the very moment the Customs impose any difficulty the through-rate is broken, and the goods have to be freighted at land rates from the port of entry. Then there will be the extra handling. From the moment sugar is handled it begins to lose weight. There is a decrease of moisture which evaporates, so that there will be a loss in that direction also. The right hon. Gentleman says that everybody in this trade—the importer, the refiner, the merchant, and the final distributer—will exact a profit on this extra duty. It is very reasonable that they should, for money will be locked up, capital will be sunk, credit will be given, and all along the line more profit will be demanded to discharge the extra risk, and to pay interest on the capital invested.

The right hon. Gentleman very aptly mentioned that the removal of taxes upon manufactured imported goods in the past had opened up our industries, increased employment, and practically put us in the advantageous position we were now in to-day. I quite agree with him; but I am prepared to argue that the imposition of such taxes has just the converse effect—it destroys our industries and diminishes employment. I wonder whether the right hon. Gentleman has ever studied how the duties on sugar in the past affected consumption. From 1860 to 1863 the duty on refined sugar was 18s. 4d., and the consumption was thirty-five pounds per head. Every fall in the duty brought about an increase of consumption. From 1864 to 1866 the duty went down to 12s. 10d., and the consumption rose to forty pounds per head. In 1867–1869 the duty was diminished to 12s., and the consumption rose to forty-three pounds. In 1872 the duty was reduced to 6s., and the consumption rose to forty-seven pounds. In 1873 the duty was reduced to 3s., and the consumption leapt up to fifty-two pounds; and finally, five years after the duty was abolished in 1874, we find that the consumption per head had gone up to sixty-three pounds, in 1885 to seventy-three pounds, and in 1900 eighty-five pounds per head. Of course I have not forgotten the observation of the right hon. Gentleman that he did not agree with these figures in regard to domestic consumption. I will not question his decision on that point, but I think he will agree with me that the statistics are sufficient for my argument. Whether the whole of this eighty-five pounds per head is domestic consumption or not, is not material to my point. It is remarkable that in spite of the continuous increase, when there was a sudden drop in the market which lasted for a year, the consumption immediately jumped up in 1874–5 six pounds per head; and in 1897 it went up eight pounds per head owing to the low market.

The point I want to make is that the imposition of this tax is bound to diminish consumption of what is not a luxury but a necessity of the people, and at the same time it will have a serious effect on those industries which have sprung up mainly from cheap sugar. The right hon. Gentleman does not seem to have much idea of the importance of these industries. He says that that importance has been exaggerated, and that he did not think they would suffer. I do not know his idea of the importance of these industries, but the capital invested in them amounts to twelve millions of money, and they employ from 100,000 to 120,000 workmen, who are paid 5½ millions in wages. I consider them very important industries indeed, and they are increasing yearly. No doubt these industries will be severely hit by the very heavy imposition proposed to be placed on them to-night. Look at what has been the effect of the additional tea duty imposed last year. The consumption of tea continued to increase without a break for twenty-five years. But last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer put on an additional duty of 2d. per pound, and if anyone cares to examine the figures of total consumption—putting aside the tea cleared in anticipation of the Budget—he will find that there has been a very considerable diminution in the consumption of tea in this country. Moreover, that diminished consumption has brought about a great amount of distress in the tea-producing countries. In anticipation of continued increased demand planters had brought a larger acreage of tea gardens under cultivation; but all of a sudden they found not only that had the consumption not increased, but that it had diminished. Therefore two of our own tea-producing possessions have been already hit by this increased duty. Besides, to impose a duty on sugar will largely affect the industries which use sugar. I am perfectly certain this tax will not be popular. It is all very well to say that working men should be made to feel that honour and glory cannot be had cheap—I perfectly agree—and that it would be wrong to exempt them from all taxation due to the war. But considering the amount of additional taxation put on last year, I maintain that the working man is already paying more than his share of the burden. I could see that the imposition of an additional 2d. of income tax was not wildly applauded on the other side of the House; it was not received with enthusiasm. But I am sorry the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not make it 4d. instead of 2d. The right hon. Gentleman has not shown any great genius in discovering new lines of taxation, or where he could put his hand on new sources of revenue. He has shown none of that skill of the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire when he put on the death duties. I do not know where the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his party would be now if it had not been for these death duties, though they opposed them bitterly, and said that they would repeal them when they got into power. Now that they are in power these death duties have proved their salvation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us that the twelve millions imposed last year had not been spent for war purposes, but on the increased demands of the whole of the Departments of the Government of the country. I say that the death duties have provided very largely for the war expenditure, and I think that the Government would have shown their appreciation of them by recanting all that they said at the time they were imposed, and by turning their attention to new sources of taxation, such as the taxation of ground values. I know that when we come into power—and that cannot be long delayed now—we shall turn our attention to that unexplored source of revenue, instead of taxing the food of the people.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): We cannot to-night discuss in any detail the complex subject presented to the House by the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I happen to be connected with two districts which will be specially affected by certain of the Budget proposals, and I am quite certain that in those districts the taxation of sugar and the export duty on coal will be, to say the least of it, disappointing.

I wish to say a word or two on the question of expenditure. We have constant dissertations on both sides of the House as to the growth of expenditure, and I think that as a general principle there is no objection to these observations; but in considering expenditure we should look to see whether it is likely to be remunerative or reproductive. That is the whole question. When I hear protests against expenditure I cannot help recalling the opinion of the American who said: "Our school rate is the highest rate, but it is the rate which we like best, because it is the most remunerative to the State." I think that much of the protest against both municipal and State expenditure is purely academic. In regard to sugar, I will not follow the stock arguments as to its being a food and a necessity of life, for these are well known; but I should like to reinforce the arguments of the hon. Gentleman opposite as to the danger which exists as to the effect of an impost on sugar upon certain of our growing commercial undertakings. I also echo what was said, that if you once strike at the system of through bills of lading, leading to increase of handling, Customs machinery, drawbacks, and bond, you introduce disturbing elements which make the impost borne by the consumer considerably more than the ideal calculations which are often previously made before the idea is put into practice. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the price of sugar was higher in 1893 than it would be with the addition of the duty he proposes; but I would like to point out that these new industries have largely grown up since 1893. There are distinctly new undertakings—and I speak with some knowledge of them in London, and especially in Hull and along the east coast—which will be specially struck at by these proposals. I would like to point out that the class of small dealers will be most hampered. It is these who will require more capital and who cannot at this time afford the sacrifice. Moreover, the prospects of trade are not so certain as to tempt us to run any risks in dealing with commercial undertakings at the present time. These industries are very important. They not only affect commerce in confectionery, but one of their real advantages to the people is that they provide articles of food which contain a nourishing element and which are cheap. The development of the jam industry has also influenced fruit culture amongst farmers. Owing to the greater demand for capital, these small growing industries may be supplanted and concentrated in the older districts, and that, in my opinion, is not the best condition for trade.

The proposed coal export duty at once raises the trade question. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that when you think of revenue you must not forget the trade. The chief danger in regard to the tax upon coal is that it has become the course of trade to take out coal and bring back cargoes, which places at the disposal of our people the commodities of the world which are the bases of our chief industries. There is nothing more dangerous than to interfere lightly with the established course of trade. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that only the ports which exported coal to the European and Mediterranean markets would have to bear any burden that may arise. But these are very important trades; they are what are called our short trades, and the East Coast ports are chiefly engaged in them, and therefore to them they are of the utmost moment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer drew a distinction between the varieties of coal which are essential to foreigners and those which are not so essential. Again I say, although I do not speak for a moment with any exactitude, some of the north-eastern ports, notably Hull, are dependent on the Yorkshire and Midlands coalfields, and although that coal may not be so essential as Welsh coal, these districts will have a double blow to bear. I am quite sure, however, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is alive to trade considerations, and I hope he will not lose sight of the point in regard to the east coast ports. I was very much struck by the remark of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that, after all, supposing that trade is affected, what would happen in this country would be that we would get our coal cheaper, or that the coal would be husbanded. Well, I would venture to reply to that, that there is something better than husbanding goods, and that is to make your trade fructifying in the pockets of the people, which is a sound economic maxim. I should have said that the prospects of the marine trade are not very good. It should be remembered that it was to the mercantile marine that we owed the transport of our immense army to South Africa without the loss of a single life; and the mercantile trade of the country ought to be one of our chief considerations. When foreign nations are entering into competition with our shipping trade it is not the moment to run any risk of injuring that trade. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that he would exempt bunker coal. Why was bunker coal to be exempted? It was because it was for the ship's use and not for trade. But owners of enterprise, with a view to economy, had large stores of coal at different stations abroad, and why should not these stores be exempt also as well as bunker coal? The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that shipowners could enlarge their bunkers. Of course, they could fill their ships' holds with coal, if they wanted to, and sail about the sea till the coal was exhausted; but what about the trade? No industry can be carried on in that fashion. Our shipowners have their coal stored abroad in order that they may successfully compete with their commercial rivals.

One other point. An increase of taxation would have been welcomed by one particular class—I mean the retail tobacco dealers. Now who gained the benefit of the last reduction of the tobacco duty? It was chiefly the large wholesale manufacturers, and not the retail dealers, who in these days of keen competition are entitled to consideration, for they bear a good deal of taxation. Again, when the duty was increased the wholesale dealers fixed on them the whole of the increased duty of 4d. per pound; and owing to the circumstance that the principal sale of tobacco is in small quantities, the retail dealers could not impose that increase on the consumer. Therefore, the retail dealers to-day declare that they would welcome some more substantial increase in the duty, in order that they could equally levy it from others. I want to say, in conclusion, that I was glad to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer say that he reserved his powers in order that the taxation for war purposes might ultimately fall on the Transvaal itself. But the right hon. Gentleman significantly omitted to mention one taxable asset—namely, the mines themselves. I express the feelings of my constituents, and I believe of the country, when I say that the nation will expect that those whose property has been saved by national expenditure and national suffering and loss shall take some substantial part in the redemption of the debt and of those obligations which are the cause of their property being in existence at the present time. I deeply regret the war, but we had no alternative. It was necessary for our self-preservation; and we may hope that it will soon be brought to an end by the acceptance of terms of an honourable peace. But we may also express the hope that in the re-adjustment of taxation the British taxpayer will not be forgotten, and that those who will reap the chief portion of the benefit will bear part of the burden. I do not speak of the Budget in any hostile spirit, but I represent those who have an exceptional position and will bear exceptional burdens, and I trust my representations will bear some fruit.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I consider the financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-night to be one of the most appalling within my memory. The right hon. Gentleman explained the falling off in the death duties as considerably due to the shrinkage of value in securities in the City. What that shrinkage may be to-morrow after this statement must be something serious to contemplate. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has said many good things in his time, and has made many great resolves in public speeches, but the one weak point about the right hon. Gentleman is that, while he is bold in the presence of the general community, he appears to be exceedingly weak in council and Cabinet decisions, which, after all, determine the financial policy of all Governments. It is only about two years ago that the Chancellor of the Exchequer said—

> "We should seriously consider whether the time has not come to have regard to the ancient virtue of economy. If we go on as we are going on there may be very bad times in store for the people of this country, and particularly for the working classes."

Therein he was a prophet; those times have come. He went on—

> "In this question of economy is wrapped up much of the future prosperity of the country. The country is rich and prosperous now, but there are signs that the prosperity may not endure for ever."

We now know that the prosperity has not endured for ever. Already we have entered upon the down grade, the length of which no man can foresee, and the rapidity of the descent no man can foretell. In his election address at Bristol also the right hon. Gentleman was very brave and wise. He said—

> "I can see no cause for anxiety as to the future so long as we adhere to those great and long-established fiscal principles to which we owe our abundant and easily collected revenue, and are careful not to assume new responsibilities, either at home or abroad, without due consideration of the effect which may be produced upon our industrial prosperity by a serious increase of our public burdens."

But how has that policy been carried out by the Government? The Chancellor talks wisely; he lays down sound economic principles, and makes accurate prophecies, but he fails at the critical moment to muzzle his wandering colleagues in their foreign and colonial policy. All the principles laid down by the right hon. Gentleman in the two quotations I have given have been abandoned again and again, with the result that he has had to make an appalling financial statement, and one which will to some extent have a paralysing effect on certain of our industries. He is sailing dangerously near to the policy which the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield advocates. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will find that in his shipping arrangements, with regard to the taxation of coal, he has landed himself in a hornets' nest. The unfortunate suggestion that ships should double their bunker space, in order to save the payment of the tax abroad for the return journey, will be laughed at at every street corner where even the elementary principles of the shipping industry are understood. A more extraordinary suggestion was never made by a Chancellor of the Exchequer. The tax on sugar will pro.

bably partly destroy an industry which, although young, is a great one, and one which has ministered to the wants of the labouring classes to a degree no one could have foreseen. It has carried into the homes of the labouring community sustaining, and I might also say luxurious, food, which could never have been provided but for cheap sugar. The hon. Member for Devonport has shown that the increase to the consumer will be, not a halfpenny in the pound, but, outside the large centres of population, probably a penny or even more.

The right hon. Gentleman justified the tax on sugar on the ground that all classes should make their due contribution to the cost of the war. He in effect said they all shouted for, approved of, and applauded the war, and therefore all ought to pay for it. There is a certain amount of truth in that, but the people did not know the real facts about the matter. They were led astray by the statements of the Government. But even if that were not the case, who has made so large a contribution towards the cost of the war as the working classes of the country? There is scarcely a working man's home throughout the length and breadth of the land which has not in some form or other, directly or indirectly, given the life of at least one of its members in this unholy war. That is a contribution which would have been perfectly sufficient without the further taxation of the children of the poor as well as the adults. Sugar has become almost as important an article of food with the poor as breadstuff itself, and to levy this tax is to make an unjust apportionment of the burden. An additional 4d. on the incomet ax would have caused less suffering and injustice than this 4s. 2d. on sugar. I know that the income tax on small incomes is very heavy, but I would have obviated that by making the scale of relief higher than it is at present. I would have taxed incomes of £5,000 a year on a different scale than incomes of £2,000 or £3,000 a year. The people with the higher incomes were not ignorant of the cause of this extraordinary expenditure; they approved of and encouraged it; thousands of them stood to make profits out of it; and they are the people who ought to pay a far larger proportion of the cost of the war.

Then the right hon. Gentleman appears to have been thoroughly frightened of the brewing trade. I have a grave suspicion that the reason he hesitated at mineral waters is that the mineral water trade is largely in the hands of the brewing interest. The brewing interest during the last half-year have been awaking to the fact that they have been slaves to one political party, and that that party is now holding their support too cheaply. They have, therefore, been making it known to whom it may concern that they could not be so well relied upon in the future if the brewing interest was further taxed. Hence the exemption of that trade from the new taxes to-night.

I cannot imagine a more unfortunate attack than that upon the merchant shipping industry of the country. Is it wise at this time, when you are meeting with most severe competition from all parts of the world, when your trade is lessening, when your freightage is getting cheaper, and when cargoes are more difficult to obtain, to dabble in this ancient Tory taxation of commerce and industry? In many cases this new proposal will necessitate your ships going across the sea in ballast to fetch their cargoes, instead of carrying out a profitable cargo of coal to dispose of to the people abroad of whom they buy their goods. This is a retrograde step. We are passing on to the taxation of the necessaries of life. I sincerely hope we shall be able to mitigate, if not to destroy, both these attempts to interfere with the earning capacity of the country, because. after all, if you interfere with trade and commerce you are lessening your revenue sources, and the nation itself must suffer from the taxation of any of its industries.

I rose particularly to call the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a promise which he made last Budget night, but to which he has omitted to refer to-night. Last year we were dealing with tobacco and tea. The tax on tobacco was repealed the year previously. I took great exception to that repeal, and pointed out that the consumer would receive no benefit whatever from it. The consumer did not receive any benefit, and the Chancellor re-imposed the tax last Budget night.

He then increased the tax on tea. My point was that the taxation of the two articles is unequal and unjust in its effect. I desired that an effort should be made to tax the values of tea and tobacco, and not the weight. A man who buys the sweepings of a tobacco warehouse at 4s. per pound pays the same amount per pound to the revenue as the man who gets the best tobacco at 8s. or 10s. per pound. The same remark applies to tea. The poor person who gets tea at 14d. or 15d. per pound pays exactly the same amount to the revenue as the rich person who pays 3s. or 4s. per pound. The right hon. Gentleman with his usual courtesy admitted there was some ground for complaint, and promised to consider between then and the next Budget night—that is to-night—whether something could be done to meet that point. No reference has been made to the matter, and I trust the right hon. Gentleman will deal with it at a later stage of our proceedings.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer evidently fully appreciates the financial position into which the country has been landed. If the present blind and unhappy policy is pursued further, we shall have to discuss not 2d. or 4d. on the income tax, or 4s. 2d. per cwt. on sugar, but double those amounts. I only wish the right hon. Gentleman would warn his colleagues in the Government in the language and with the firmness with which he has warned the Committee and the country to-night of the difficulties into which they are drifting and the dangers into which our national finances are being driven by the mad policy we are pursuing in different parts of the world. He was hopeless as to the future of the Transvaal. Not in the next ten years will you get any revenue from the Transvaal towards the cost of the war. Is there a man who, after reading Sir A. Milner's despatch, can but admit that not within twenty years will you be able to look forward to the taxation of the Transvaal? A tax might and ought to have been put upon the diamond mines of Kimberley. Thousands of pounds were spent in the relief of that property, and hundreds of lives were lost in its rescue. Diamonds to the value of £8,000,000 or £10,000,000 are annually exported from those mines, and it is altogether unjust that they should escape direct and substantial taxation towards the cost of the war. I do sincerely hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will lecture and warn his colleagues with regard to the dangers into which they are leading our beloved country by their incapable policy.

*SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter): It would be difficult for those who hold the views I do regarding the expenditure of the country not to be grateful to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the complete justification he has afforded of the truth of the views we have expressed. I admire the eloquence of his statement; above all, I admire its strength. Certainly there was never an occasion when frankness could have been more difficult, because I believe that in our history there have been few years in which the financial condition of the country was more unsatisfactory than to-night. What is the position, put in a few words, and freed from all technicalities? It is practically that although last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer imposed new taxes to the extent of, I think, £14,000,000, at the present time the peace charges have increased to such a degree that the entire amount of the new taxation is absorbed to produce equilibrium. The revenue he anticipates on the basis of existing taxation amounts to £132,000,000. The expenditure amounts to £127,000,000, and if you add the £2,000,000 for interest on the already contracted War Loans to be paid for out of ordinary revenue you get your total of £129,000,000. I think the margin of £2,500,000 named by the right hon. Gentleman is not more than sufficient, if we may judge from experience, to provide for the Supplementary Estimates we shall have to deal with in the course of the session. As regards the expenditure already incurred on behalf of the war, we have heard it stated many times that it was our duty to pay a reasonable and just proportion from current revenue. But if we look into the accounts we find that out of a total expenditure of £91,000,000 only £24,000,000 has been paid out of revenue, of which nearly £5,000,000 has been produced by the suspension of the Sinking Fund. The proportion is therefore, roughly speaking, one-fifth, which is far less than the proportion paid out of current revenue at the time of the Crimean War, when the country was infinitely less rich than at present, and also far less than at the time of the great Napoleonic war, when the condition of the country could not be compared with that of to-day.

What do the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer amount to with regard to the payment of war costs from revenue? The proposed new taxation amounts in the aggregate to £11,000,000, which is precisely the figure of the increase of the ordinary expenditure of the current year. That is to say, the entire increase of taxation the House is called upon to vote this evening is already absorbed by the increased cost of the War Department, the Navy Department, and the Civil Service Department. The consequence is that with an income tax of 1s. 2d. and new taxes on coal and sugar we are practically no further advanced than we were last year. We have placed before us an estimate of £60,000,000 for the war, but under the most favourable circumstances the revenue of the country will not produce more than £15,000,000 towards that amount, so that, assuming a favourable view of the course of the war, three-fourths of the amount will be left for loans and future taxation to bear.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I think the hon. Member is mistaken as to that. I was merely speaking with regard to the estimates of revenue and expenditure which are already in the hands of hon. Members. On those there would be a balance of more than twenty millions towards the cost of the war. [An Hon. Member: Altogether.] No; this year. Altogether, more than forty-five millions.

*Sir EDGAR VINCENT: The figures on which I spoke are these. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that on the ordinary Budget there would be a surplus of £2,865,000, and he proposed additional taxation to the extent of £11,000,000.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: There is the Sinking Fund.

*Sir EDGAR VINCENT: I do not consider that the Sinking Fund can fairly be included. It appears to me that in any calculation of this kind it is absolutely essential that we should proceed from the basis on which we stood before the war began. I therefore maintain the correctness of my estimate regarding the proportion of war expenditure to be paid this year out of current revenue.

Turning now to the question of borrowing, I confess I am glad to find that the Chancellor has abandoned the practice of temporary borrowings. I think that in financial circles and commercial circles in this country there is only one thought with regard to the floating debt, and that is that it is excessive. I do not deny the existence of arguments which may be held to justify the course the Chancellor of the Exchequer took, but it is really nothing more than what I may call "knot in the handkerchief" finance. It is a kind of *memoria technica* that eventually the recovery of a portion of the debt may be obtained. I believe it is more advantageous to borrow frankly on a permanent basis, retaining all the rights of this country to recover from the Transvaal Government, but at the same time borrowing in such a way as to get the money on the cheapest terms. I cannot believe it is good finance to borrow in such a manner that this country has to pay 4 per cent. for money. Now, taking the view I do with regard to this matter, I was glad to hear this evening that it was shared by the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, namely, with regard to the general financial outlook. I think that it is wise for the House, without regard to party politics or party considerations, to devote some attention to the question of our growing expenditure. I accept the view—and I hope it will produce a beneficial result—that we have arrived at our present position, not principally on account of the war, but rather on account of the lax system of financial administration into which the Government has fallen, and I really attribute little responsibility to the Government beyond that which I attribute to the Opposition or the House in general, because in real truth, if one looks back on the proceedings of the House, the question of close control over expenditure has been to a large extent neglected. I confess that it is with some regret that I fail to observe any tendency whatever towards improvement. On the present occasion the proposals made in Supply involve an increase of about £11,000,000. That represents a very large proportion indeed. I think the figures last year amounted to £90,000,000. The Vote this year is £101,000,000, representing, therefore, an increase in one year of 12 per cent. If any private firm or individual increased expenditure at this rate we should be somewhat sceptical in regard to that firm or that individual maintaining credit, and I do think the nation should be fully as careful in regard to expenditure as any commercial firm or private individual. Until this evening I was sorry to hear no mention whatever of economy. This evening the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke of the desirability of economy, but I must say that I missed from his speech and from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire any practical suggestion tending to the end which they admitted to be desirable. No practical proposal was put forward which would either improve the administration of the country from a financial point of view, or which would enable this House to maintain a closer control over the finances of the country.

What is the present system of control? It practically amounts to this, that the sole barrier against the increase of expenditure, as things are now ordered, is the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If, as has often happened in the course of the last 200 years, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is Prime Minister, or if he is in the Cabinet with a large number of Members who have financial experience, the result is national economy; but if the Prime Minister is either non-financial or anti-financial, or if the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not adequate financial support, then I think the interests of national economy are somewhat unduly neglected in favour of the interests of the spending departments. The figures which the House has already are in themselves alarming, but the effect they make upon my mind is enhanced by the undoubted fact that the more money the House gives to the spending departments the more those departments cry out for further funds. So far from being satisfied with the enormous amount spent upon the Army, the tone of the recent debates showed that there was a feeling in some quarters that the pay of the soldier ought to be nearly doubled. I confess that it is entirely impossible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, no matter what his ability may be, to keep the finances of this country on a safe basis if these principles prevail. There used to be another safeguard against extravagance in the Treasury, but I submit that the Treasury, although it may still exist, has practically ceased to exist as an effective means of checking expenditure. You have destroyed the old prestige of the Treasury, and it cannot now give the effective control it used to give ten, twenty, or thirty years ago in keeping down the expenditure of the country within reasonable limits. I believe economy to be a most difficult thing to practise. It is almost impossible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to keep a sufficiently tight hand on the reins if he does not meet with energetic support from a large section of the House. In making these remarks my only object has been to draw the attention of the House to the great urgency of the question of control over public expenditure. I trust that I have not drawn too black a picture. I desire above all not to embarrass the Government. But I wish to induce hon. Members to take up and examine the question for themselves, and I am convinced that if before granting increased supplies to the various spending departments they will insist on examining into the question and make certain that the present Vote is expended so as to attain the maximum of efficiency, that it will be possible to organise the services of the Army and Navy in a fully efficient and adequate manner without endangering our reputation as prudent and economical administrators.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): The hon. Member who has just sat down has emulated the example of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in one respect. He has given us a warning about extravagance, and he has been good enough to say that the responsibility for that extravagance is to be shared, not merely by the responsible Government and those who support them, but equally by the Opposition and all sections of the House. Well, we will shortly give to those hon. Gentlemen the opportunity of showing whether their policy is as courageous as their utterances are candid. In a very short time there will come up for review by this House a measure by which over £2,000,000—the very amount that is expected to be derived from the export duty on coal—is to be taken out of the pockets of the general taxpayers for the relief of the political friends and supporters of the Government in the country. There is an instance of extravagance about as gross, as inequitable, and as shameless as ever was introduced to this House. I wonder whether the hon. Member for Exeter, and the hon. Members who cheered him, will stand side by side with the Opposition when they take up their parable against that extravagant and inequitable taxation. I have not the slightest doubt that the candid Member for Exeter and the candid and exemplary Chancellor of the Exchequer will stand side by side in demanding that there should be taken out of the depleted resources of this country £2,000,000 for the relief of the friends of the Government. I attach, therefore, very little importance to the candid utterances of the hon. Member for Exeter or to those of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. What we want is not so much candour—it is an easy virtue, provided it is not followed by courage—and as there has been no Chancellor of the Exchequer so candid as the distinguished occupant of that office to-day, so there has been no Chancellor of the Exchequer less courageous in resisting the extravagant tendencies of his party and of this House than the present holder of that office. We saw an instance of that to-night. We were told by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that we have spent twice as much over this war as over the Crimean War. I expected that statement to be the prelude of an announcement that, at all events, we were going to get a Crimean War income tax. Again, the candid utterance was the prelude to anything but a courageous policy. A Crimean War income tax is something apparently which the Chancellor of the Exchequer dare not propose. I need not stop to criticise that.

This Budget will be historic. It will be historic by evil pre-eminence among Budgets, but it is the first — certainly for half a century—that has been distinctly and avowedly retrogressive. It is a Budget that carries us back to an obsolete system of finance. That system has been reintroduced in the House for reasons on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which I listened, I would say respectfully, with astonishment—reasons which I never expected to hear from that Front Bench, and above all from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. An export tax on coal is purely and simply a tax on trade. It is the first of such taxes for many years. For years the whole trend of our policy has been to repeal such taxes. Now we have a Chancellor of the Exchequer who proposes to re-introduce them, and he does so with a formula that is remarkable. and more ingenious than the old debates will show. The right hon. Gentleman says he wants to "broaden the basis of taxation." I have always understood that the glory of every great Chancellor of the Exchequer was to broaden the basis of trade and narrow the basis of taxation. Now we have it stated that the basis of trade requires to be broadened. That is put before us as a new financial policy. The basis of taxation was never so broad as when we had 700 articles subject to taxation. There is an example for the Chancellor of the Exchequer! That was broadening the basis of taxation. That was a policy we thought we had overcome. That is the policy which under this specious formula we have re-introduced to-night. Let us look at the reasons. The right hon. Gentleman, in introducing the new tax, says, first of all, that it is not an unmixed evil. Well, no tax is an unmixed evil to everybody. I might almost venture to say that no misfortune is an unmixed evil to everybody. There are persons who live by the disturbance of trade, and there are persons who live by the quarrels of their fellow creatures. I do not doubt that such persons will welcome the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a great ally in their business relations, because the tax is by no means an unmixed evil. The Chancellor of the Exchequer went on to say that it would not do trade any real harm. I go one step further than this distinguished Chancellor of the Exchequer. I expected him to tell us not only that taxes are not an unmixed evil, but that trade thrives by taxes. The right hon. Gentleman says that 1s. on a ton of coal would not really injure trade, and, by way of strengthening his argument, he pointed out that the trade had flourished under the great increase in the price which had taken place recently—that the increase which we had seen in the price of coal was due to the increased demand for coal. The increase in the price followed the prosperity of trade, and the increase in the price is shared by all the competitors alike, as the cost of production is borne by all competitors alike. The right hon. Gentleman cannot put the tax upon Belgian and French coalowners, but he puts it on the English coalowner. His tax is a handicap on the English producer. This is a reversion to protection, but the person protected is not the English, but the foreign producer. The foreign producer will be very grateful to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A tax of 1s. per ton in times of declining trade such as we are now entering upon may make all the difference between a big profit and a little one, between profit and loss, between prosperity and bankruptcy. A tax of 1s. per ton is a heavy tax to put on one class of producers who compete with foreign producers. It is quite true that the English coalowner is not entirely excluded from Continental markets. He managed to send 8,000,000 tons there last year.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am very sorry if he did.

MR. ROBSON: Now our candid Chancellor of the Exchequer tells us he would be very sorry to see that export trade increased under normal conditions in regard to one of our greatest articles of commerce. I say that such a statement as that indicates, not merely a change of policy, but a state of mind of which this country had better take note, and of which we had better warn the country thoroughly and in time. Let coalowners and the coal industry of this country, which numbers over 800,000 workers, take note of the fact that a responsible member of the Ministry would be very sorry to see their export trade increased.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I never said that. [An HON. MEMBER: Yes.] An hon. Member suggested that with falling prices the export to France might increase by three millions in the next or in the present year over the highest figure it has ever attained. Such a rate of increase would be to my mind extremely dangerous to coal consumers at home.

MR. ROBSON: The right hon. Gentleman has not confuted my argument. He has given us to understand that the increase under normal conditions of trade in the export of coal would be gravely mischievous and dangerous to consumers at home. Let the Committee consider the extent to which the exports of coal have increased from most insignificant proportions to being 12 per cent. of our total exports. We have, however, seen the trade hampered in a variety of ways, and is it to be understood that it is dangerous to see it increased? The right hon. Gentleman said we were in some danger from the exhaustion of the coal measures. Are we to keep coal here for generations unborn? We have seen many substitutes for coal introduced. The serious consideration with regard to the future of coal is not so much foreign competition as the fact that the age of steam may be said to be drawing to a close. If we had an improvement in the use of electricity there would be a great diminution in the consumption of coal. Let no Chancellor of the Exchequer flatter himself that he is saving up coal for posterity. Posterity will probably say that it would very much rather, instead of saving up coal for it, that he had paid off a little more debt for it. That is the probable answer that posterity will make to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The right hon. Gentleman made an appeal to the patriotism of the coal trade and of the shipping interest. But do not let it be imagined that this coal tax is a war tax. It is nothing of the kind. It is an exact equivalent of the Agricultural Rating Relief Act. It is a tax to enable the

Government to perpetuate that measure, and before the Chancellor of the Exchequer appeals to our patriotism he should get rid of that Act.

The right hon. Gentleman proceeded to reproach us with our own proposals for expenditure, of several of which he reminded us. But I should like to make a comparison between our demands for expenditure and those made by hon. Gentlemen opposite. As he says, we have demanded extra expenditure on education, but what is that compared with the demand made on his side of the House for an extra grant to the land-owning classes of this country? Let hon. Members compare, not only the amount of these rival demands, but also their character. The right hon. Gentleman referred to various demands which he described as extravagant, but I noticed that he did not mention Old Age Pensions. That was a singular omission. The party opposite have striven through all-night sittings to relieve the burdens upon property, but may I remind the right hon. Gentleman that taxation on trade and industry falls upon the working classes. He is now proposing to raise eight millions of money by fresh taxes on trade, industry, and the working classes, and four millions upon property, leaving the tax-paying community still to pay more than two millions which is unjustly put upon their shoulders for the purpose of relieving a special class of the community. I hope this Budget will be opposed by every Member of this House in the interests of the constituencies. It cannot be defended on the ground of necessity. The war is to be paid for by loan, and all this increased expenditure arises from the Government system of administration. It is for every Member to say whether he is prepared to go to his constituents as an avowed champion of an obsolete and retrogressive system of finance.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) said the hon. and learned Member who had just spoken had drawn a comparison between the demands made by hon. Members on either side of the House for increased expenditure. He was bound to point out, however, it by no means followed that the demands on the Opposition side were the more economical of the two; indeed some of them were very extravagant and calculated to be far more expensive than the Agricultural Rating Relief Act. If the educational policy advocated by hon. Members opposite were to be carried out as a whole, there was no question that it would involve an expenditure far in excess of any to which this sorely tried Ministry had so far been committed. It had been suggested that they were reverting to an obsolete and retrogressive system of finance. Those were very fine epithets, but he did not gather that any arguments had been advanced to justify their use. It was true that certain taxes had, years ago, been abandoned, but they were abandoned because they were no longer wanted, and Mr. Gladstone, in dropping them, distinctly stated that they might be reimposed in case of urgent necessity. Did hon. Members opposite suggest that no such necessity had now arisen? The hon. Member for South Shields had had a good deal to say about the export duty on coal, and had suggested that it was being imposed for the protection of the foreign producer. He did not agree with him in that. He could not see how the foreign producer was protected, for if there was one thing which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made more clear than another it was that the quality of the coal produced in South Wales and in the North of England was such as could not be obtained elsewhere, and therefore the shilling export duty upon it could not be deemed to be a protective duty in favour of the foreign producer, who could not supply the same quality coal. The Chancellor of the Exchequer also made it clear that he regarded the export trade in coal as a drain upon our capital, and surely if foreigners were to be allowed to make that drain it was only fair that they should pay some small tax upon it.

But, as the right hon. Gentleman for West Monmouthshire had said, this was not the time to discuss the details of the Budget. He wished for his part to say that the country owed a great debt of gratitude to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for having put before it in plain, unmistakable terms the serious situation in which it stood at the present moment. His reproaches were thoroughly well deserved. Since Lord Randolph Churchill sacrificed himself on the altar of economy, there had hardly been a great statesman on either side of the House who had stood up for the economical management of our finances. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the country had ratified the expenditure. That was true, but at the same time, in matters of finance, party leaders should take the lead, and not the country. He trusted that the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be printed in big characters and circulated all over the country, for he had told them what it was most essential they should know, namely, the position in which they now stood. The speech constituted a most solemn and serious warning. It was, he might even say, a most alarming statement. The right hon. Gentleman, who had shown them that Treasury control was ineffective, was, he believed, profoundly convinced in favour of economy, but, unfortunately, other forces had proved too strong for him. For years our expenditure had been mounting by leaps and bounds, and we had now reached the limits of our taxable capacity. That was a consideration which called for solemn consideration. Could we put any fresh tax on beer? No. Could we put more on spirits? No. Could we add to the taxation on wine, which showed a falling revenue? No. Could we put additional duties on tea or tobacco? No. These were staple articles of expenditure on which we could not add a single penny to the taxation. We had been accustomed to believe that these things could be taxed if necessary to any extent when this country was engaged in war, but now we had discovered that we had reached the limits of our taxable capacity. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said truly that, in raising revenue, we must not sacrifice trade. But if we increased the income tax much more we would undoubtedly sacrifice trade, for there were signs that trade was declining all over the country, and we might depend upon it that the increase in the income tax would not yield the same return per penny as before. He believed that any further increase would be found inadvisable, and would be resisted by the country at large. It was all very well to recall the fact that in 1813 the income tax reached 2s. in the £, but what were the circumstances which then obtained? We were then engaged in a conflict against practically the whole world. Our national existence was at stake, and there was consequently good reason for charging a high income tax. Now, when we were engaged in a war with some 40,000 farmers, there surely ought not to be the same necessity for a high income tax. The truth was that our system of expenditure required to be overhauled from top to bottom, especially with reference to Army administration. Everybody was agreed that not a single shilling which was necessary should be begrudged for the Navy. But the Army, he considered, stood in a different position, and it was the duty of the House to see that it got an adequate return for the enormous sums of money which were spent upon it.

Another thing stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was most interesting to the House. He admitted that there was no chance of getting back from the Transvaal the money we had expended upon this war; he said that we had taken over a ruined country, and that there were no realisable assets whatever. Under those circumstances we should have to put our hands into our own pockets. Personally he could not help expressing regret that Lord Kitchener's terms were not accepted. It was clear that, whatever wealth there was in the Transvaal, and whatever increase of trade might attend the return of prosperity, it would be enjoyed mainly by the next generation, and that seemed to offer an argument why posterity should, to a considerable extent, be called upon to liquidate this war debt. He could only say in conclusion that he thought every Member of this House must sympathise with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the task which confronted him, and must admire the courage with which he had set about it. He had rendered great service to the country by putting the situation so clearly before it, and if his statement should lead to a thorough overhauling of our methods of finance, it would not have been made in vain. There was one thing the nation must take to heart and understand thoroughly, and that was that, if we expended so extravagantly as we had done in times of profound peace and prosperity, we could not afford to indulge in the luxury of war.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I have risen to take a brief share in the discussion upon this subject to-night, because I feel that it is important that the voice of Ireland should be heard clearly and distinctly with reference to the extraordinarily disastrous and disgraceful financial statement which has been set before the country by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But in the first place allow me to offer to the right hon. Gentleman the meed of the sincere admiration with which his speech has filled me. I have seldom listened to a speech which impressed me more with its honesty of purpose. The Chancellor was in great difficulty. I doubt if any Chancellor of the Exchequer of recent times ever had to face a more difficult situation, and the right hon. Gentleman addressed himself to it in an honest manner; and the honesty of his speech was only equalled by its courage, for it requires courage to make such a speech as the right hon. Gentleman made to-night.

I hope that one of the effects of the speech to-night will be to call the attention of the country to the true state of affairs in South Africa. I do not think in the memory of any Member of this House there was ever a more disastrous situation put before the country than was depicted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the one thought in my mind all through it, from beginning to end, as I listened to the disastrous tale unfolded, was what a misfortune it was for my country to be tied up in partnership with Great Britain. It is one of the cheap commonplaces of debate on that question that it is, forsooth, a benefit for a poor country like Ireland to be in partnership with a rich and prosperous country like Great Britain, But it is exactly the contrary. What interest has Ireland in the great expenditure entailed by the war in South Africa; what interest has Ireland in the policy which necessitated that expenditure? Absolutely none, and it is absolute disaster for a poor country like Ireland to be tied up in partnership with a rich country like England, when it is forced to pay a share, and too large a share,. as I shall presently show, towards the enterprises undertaken by the rich partner. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has pointed out that the deficit with which he has to deal is not a deficit entirely due to the war, but is due also to the growth of what he called the ordinary expenditure. What is the nature of this bloated ordinary expenditure? The chief increase is with reference to the Army and Navy. If I were an English Member I would agree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he said that the popular feeling was that there should be a strong Navy; but I ask hon. Members to kindly address themselves to the question as to what benefit Ireland, as a separate entity, gets from the Navy? The value of the Navy is not to protect Ireland from invasion; the value of the Navy to this country is that it is a great insurance of your commerce all over the world. Ireland has no commerce on the seas, and so far as the Navy is concerned this increased expenditure, which may commend itself to the popular mind of this country, cannot commend itself to the minds of our people, who look upon it as a piece of wanton and absolute extravagance. The same is also true of the Army, and when it is pointed out that the deficit is due not only to the war but to the enormous increase of the Army Votes, that is no consolation to Ireland at all, because she is forced against her will and her interest to pay too large a share towards that expenditure. Someone said in the course of the debate that he knew no one who had been in favour of economy. I can only say the Irish Members for all the years I have been in Parliament have protested year after year against these bloated Estimates for Army, Navy, and Civil Service. We, at all events, have not been in favour of this extravagance, and are not open to that imputation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer boasted of the prosperity of Great Britain. He did not say Great Britain, he spoke of the United Kingdom, but he meant Great Britain, because he spoke of the great prosperity which marked the recent history of this country. He said there had not been a step backward in the prosperity of the people, and that their power of consumption had been maintained. If that is true of Great Britain, it is not true, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer knows it is not true, of Ireland. There is one industry which is not progressive either in Great Britain or Ireland, and that is agriculture. In this country agriculture is one of a great number of industries, and is not of paramount or overwhelming importance, but in Ireland it is the only industry. While, therefore, it is true to say that, notwithstanding the decline in the prosperity of agriculture, so far as Great Britain is concerned trade is prosperous, it is not true to say that trade is prosperous in Ireland, because there agriculture is the only industry, and is admittedly languishing. Under the present financial system Ireland, notwithstanding that fact, is bound to bear her share of the enormous expenditure decided upon by this country against the protests of Ireland's representatives.

This is a new Parliament, and the point may fairly be raised that Ireland is called upon to pay far more than her just share of taxation. This is not the proper opportunity for formally raising the question of the financial relations between the two countries, but the question will have to be raised before the session is much older, and debated at length. Suffice it for me to say at present that in 1895 a Royal Commission —in the main a British Commission— containing most of the leading financial authorities of the country, unanimously, with one exception, reported that Ireland was being overtaxed, having regard to her taxable capacity, as compared with Great Britain, by at least £2,750,000 a year. That Report was made in 1895 on the basis of the figures of the receipts and expenditure for 1893-4. The taxation of Ireland in that year was £7,500,000, and between then and 1899-1900 the taxation of Ireland has been raised by more than £1,000,000. Up to March, 1901, another additional £1,000,000 was placed on the taxation of Ireland. We have not the exact figures for the last year, but we know broadly what they are. Last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself stated that the new taxes he was then imposing would probably raise the taxation of Ireland by something close upon £1,000,000. Now, forsooth, additional taxes are to be imposed upon Ireland, amounting roughly to £600,000 a year. ["More."] I am making a moderate estimate. The income tax, which in Ireland is a small matter, and the sugar duty will mean additional taxation of about £600,000 this year. Therefore we have this extraordinary fact, that a Commission, with a majority of your own countrymen and your leading financial experts upon it, declared in 1893-4 we were taxed £2,750,000 more than we ought to be, and since then nearly £3,000,000 additional taxation has been put upon us. And while this has been going on on the one side, the prosperity of Ireland has been going down on the other. In this country the prosperity has been going up year by year, by leaps and bounds, and the capacity of the people to bear taxation has been increased. But in Ireland during those years since 1893-4, when our taxation has been increased by nearly £3,000,000 a year, the prosperity of the country has admittedly gone down. After all, the best test of the prosperity of a country is the state of the population. During those years to which I have referred the population of Ireland has diminished by 100,000, and the pauperism per thousand has increased. Judged by any test you can possibly apply, the prosperity of Ireland has gone down, while her taxation has increased. I take the point, therefore, that even if the taxation now proposed were in our opinion just in its character, and even if the object for which it is imposed were laudable and right, we Irish Members would still be bound to protest against this additional taxation on the ground that we are called upon to pay far more than our share.

But what is the character of the new taxation? The Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke about direct and indirect taxation, and he told an applauding Committee that the direct taxation of this country was about 48 per cent. of the total, and was now to be brought up to a level with the indirect taxation. That was not a candid statement; it was scarcely a fair statement. He was speaking, he said, of this country, but what is the fact in regard to Ireland?

While it may be true that direct taxation now is equal to indirect taxation in Great Britain, that is not true of Ireland. Indirect taxation in Ireland is 78 per cent. of the whole taxation of the country. I think it is a cruel thing for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to speak as he did of the direct taxation equalling indirect, when he knows that in the poor country of Ireland the indirect taxation is 78 per cent. of the total taxation. And then he proposes to levy five millions of additional money, and to inflict on Ireland still further taxation by a duty on sugar. I protest against this additional taxation of sugar. It is a tax which will press heavily on the poor, which will be felt in every miserable little cabin in Ireland, and which will not be felt at all in the houses and palaces of the rich in this country. It is unfair to the individual and unfair to the country. There are many ways in which this tax on sugar will be injurious to Ireland. We have very few industries. One small industry recently arose in which I am interested, for the reason that I had lately an opportunity of inspecting one of the places where it is carried on. It is an industry for the manufacture of condensed milk. I went over the establishment in Munster, and found 300 or 400 girls engaged in making condensed milk. Now, the chief ingredient of condensed milk is sugar. Apart from the general injustice of this taxation of the poor, it is a little hard that a new industry of this kind should be specially hit by the new taxation which has been imposed. Again, take the case of the income tax. Is there in the whole history of politics a tale of greater injustice than the history of the income tax in Ireland? What are the facts? Up to the year 1853 there was no income tax in Ireland; but in that year, when Ireland was impoverished and exhausted after the famine, the taxation of Ireland was actually doubled at one fell stroke, and an income tax was imposed; but Mr. Gladstone stated that he was only imposing it for seven years, and he gave a distinct pledge to that effect. And he stated that as a compensation he would free Ireland from the Consolidated Annuity Fund. Now, the Consolidated Annuity Fund amounted at that time to £250,000 a year; but the very first year that the income tax was imposed on Ireland a sum of over half a million was raised; and from that day to this, in exchange for the Consolidated Annuities, Ireland has paid in income tax considerably over thirty millions sterling. I say that the whole history of the income tax in Ireland is a history of injustice and of breach of faith. Do not let me be misunderstood on this question of the income tax. If I had my way I would pay the whole cost of the war out of the income tax. I think it would be a far honester way, for undoubtedly the whole responsibility of this war rests, not with the poor or the working classes, who have been deluded into supporting the war, but with the moneyed classes of the country. I would be glad to see, therefore, the entire cost of the war thrown on the income tax. Still, notwithstanding that the income tax is paid by the wealthier classes, I protest, as an Irishman, against any increase of any tax whatever in Ireland, in view of the fact that we are paying far more than our share, according to our taxable capacity. The Chancellor of the Exchequer boasted to-night that the yield of the income tax had risen. Certainly that was something to be proud of, showing as it did how wealth and prosperity have increased in this country. But again the right hon. Gentleman was speaking only of Great Britain. Why, the rapidly-decreasing welfare of Ireland is proved not only by the increasing poverty of the working classes and by the emigration of the poor, but is actually proved also by the decreased welfare of the rich. The 1d. in the £ of income tax produces much more here than it did five years ago; but in Ireland it produces less. These are the figures. In the year 1896 an 8d. in the £ income tax produced in England £13,822,000, and in 1900 it produced £16,400,000, showing the increasing prosperity of the country. The same thing is true of Scotland. In 1896 an 8d. in the £ income tax produced in Scotland £1,400,000, but in 1900 it produced £1,700,000. But during the same period in Ireland an 8d. in the £ income tax produced in 1896 £700,000, and in 1900 only £960,000. That was an increase in England of £2,500,000, and in Scotland of £300,000, but a decrease in Ireland of about £10,000. By any test you like to apply to Ireland—the tests of increasing poverty of the poor, the increase of depopulation of the country, or the striking fact that the wealthier classes have during these years decreased in prosperity—the country is becoming impoverished, while you increase the taxation by three millions per annum.

Now, of course, I recognise the fact that in the main this enormous deficit is to be attributed to the war. I confess I was appalled, and I think that the English Members must also have been appalled when they heard the figures as to the cost of the war as they were read out by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I do not believe that the public outside had any idea until to-night that this war had cost up till now 153 millions of money. It is appalling, and as the Chancellor of the Exchequer read out these figures amid the ominous silence of the Ministerial Benches, it seemed to me that over the faces of hon. Members opposite was creeping the grey shadow of political death. I wonder what would be the position of the Conservative party in the House of Commons to-day if last September they had gone to the constituencies and had told the constituencies that the cost of this war up to the present was 153 millions, and that Sir Alfred Milner was of opinion that we were to-day, as far as the ending of the war was concerned, worse than we were six months ago?

With regard to this £150,000,000, I think hon. Members will admit that it is a little hard for us, coming here from a poor country like Ireland, where our people are almost begging for something to promote their prosperity, to be expected to take part in voting such a sum for this purpose. I cannot help thinking that many hon. Members must have had qualms of conscience when they heard these figures. What would that money have done for old age pensions, for schemes for the housing of the very poor, or for education? The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in speaking about economy, said that hon. Members on this side if they economised in one direction would be forced to spend in another, and he instanced a scheme of compulsory land purchase and sale in Ireland. Is that the same kind of expenditure? Any expenditure for the compulsory sale and purchase of land in Ireland would, from a strict point of view, be a reproductive expenditure. By such a scheme of land purchase we are simply asking for the use of credit under circumstances which have been proved in your land purchase dealings with Ireland in the past to be perfectly safe to the Exchequer. But, apart from the financial aspect, it would be money spent for the pacification, conciliation, and peace and prosperity of the people of Ireland, whereas this money has been spent for the destruction of a country and the extermination of a brave race. This £153,000,000 which has been spent so far on this war is double what was spent on the Crimean War, and it is as much, we have been told, as was spent in two years in the great Peninsular War. And for what purpose has it been spent? Not to fight England's battles against the world or against the greatest nations of the world, but in the fighting of a battle against a handful of armed farmers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke of this as a great war. Yes, it is a great war, but for this country and this Government it is a disgraceful and a shameful war. It is a great war in the sense that it will live in the history of the world for all time as an example of how a little country, made up of men who were willing to give their property and their lives in defence of an ideal, withstood for months and years the might of one of the greatest empires. It is an example of heroism which I believe will live in history alongside the history of the Greeks, who preferred to die at Thermopylæ rather than surrender their liberty to a foreign nation. The only sense in which it is a great war for you is that it has cost you £153,000,000. There was no part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech in which I admired his honesty more than when he said that his hopes of last year, that the Transvaal would be able to pay something for the war, were delusive. He has now told the country that nothing can be hoped for in this direction, and, so far as the Transvaal itself is concerned, nothing can be hoped for for years. He has admitted that fact, and who can tell how long it will continue? But if the war ended tomorrow there would probably be a deficit in the revenues of the Transvaal itself, and this country would be put to an enormous expense to police it. Therefore we must postpone indefinitely any hope of recouping ourselves from the revenues of the Transvaal. It is well that these facts should be stated, and I thank the Chancellor of the Exchequer for having told the country plainly that this war has cost £150,000,000, and that he can hold out no hope of an early termination of the war. Sir Alfred Milner has just declared that you are worse off in South Africa than you were six months ago, and in addition to that we now hear that the taxpayers of this country will have to pay the cost. I sincerely hope that these facts will have their proper effect upon the men who went with a light heart into this war, believing, I suppose, the declaration of the Colonial Secretary when, at the time of the Raid, he said he could not go to war, and when he asked us to consider what a serious thing it would be if he had to send 10,000 men to conquer the Transvaal. I want to know where the Colonial Secretary is to-night? I sympathised sincerely with the Chancellor when he reminded the House how easy it was for the Secretary of State for War to come down here and propose a great scheme of Army reform and leave the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide the money. The Chancellor was not thinking of the Secretary of State for War. The Chancellor was thinking of the Secretary for the Colonies, and he was thinking with some natural bitterness of soul how easy it was for his colleague to come down here in the midst of a war fever in the country and win cheap applause by advocating this disastrous war, and then leaving him to come down to-night and to devise unpopular means, as they necessarily must be, in order to meet the bill. I sympathise with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in that position. In my view it is not the Chancellor who ought to get up at that Table to justify this enormous expenditure, but the man who, notwithstanding the cheap popularity of the moment, will go down in history as responsible not merely for the expenditure of two hundred millions of treasure, but for the vastly more precious treasure of the blood of 20,000 of his countrymen. In the name of the Irish Members I seize this, the earliest opportunity that has occurred to us, to enter our protest against this Budget. We protest against it on three broad grounds. First, we object to the purpose for which this taxation is raised; second, we object to the character of the taxation itself; and third, because Ireland is called upon to pay an unjust and inequitable share of it.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): I listened to the statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer with feelings of disappointment and regret. Within the short time which has elapsed since the right hon. Gentleman sat down telegrams have been pouring in upon me protesting against his proposals. I hope the Committee will give me a little time to-night, as I seldom interfere in the debates except on subjects of which I think I know something more than the greater part of the House. Well, there is no doubt that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has the sympathy of all of us on this side of the House, and possibly of many on the other side, on the difficult task he has undertaken of providing for the cost of a war which has been one of the greatest surprises in history. Never has there been a war in which such extraordinary estimates as to cost and duration have been made from the beginning till now. At first ten millions was to be the cost, but to-night we are told that it has already cost 150 millions.

I regret very much the step which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken in raising the necessary taxation from the people of this country. I have from October, 1899, when the war broke out, during last session and till now, urged strenuously on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in public and private, the importance of taxing the Transvaal for the whole cost of the war. I heard the hon. Member the Leader of the Irish party say that this was a war brought on by people of the moneyed class of this country and that they were entitled to pay for it. I say that the war was brought on directly by the ultimatum of President Kruger, and indirectly by the fact that these gold mines existed in the Transvaal; but what I do take exception to is that the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not put the cost of the war upon those who brought it on. The right hon. Gentleman has no doubt given to this House what he considers a good reason for not doing so. I must traverse that reason. The right hon. Gentleman says he has not received a Report from Sir David Barbour who was sent out to report on the mineral wealth of the Transvaal, and whether the Transvaal could bear any part, or the whole cost of the war. But he did not require to send Sir David Barbour out there to find that out. The mine owners of the Transvaal themselves admit the great wealth of the country. The greatest mining expert in South Africa has admitted it in his Report, which I hold in my hands, presented to the Consolidated Gold Fields meeting in 1899. Mr. Hayes Hammond said in that Report that under good rule, such as British rule—[Cries of "Oh!" from the Irish benches]—I hope hon. Members opposite would not dispute that the rule of Britain is superior to the corrupt rule of Kruger—a very conservative estimate of the saving would be £4,826,535 per annum, being a saving of 6s. per ton of ore crushed that year. One of his fellow directors is Mr. C. J. Rhodes, and the chairman is Mr. Rudd, who at a meeting in Johannesburg estimated the saving at 7s. 6d. per ton, while another authority, Mr. Eckstein, estimated it at 10s. per ton from the abolition of the dynamite monopoly, the reduction of enormous railway charges, the reform of the liquor laws, and the securing of cheap labour. This saving would thus range from 5 to 8 million pounds sterling per annum. But, say that the saving would be five millions per annum, why should the Chancellor of the Exchequer ask us to pay the cost of the war; why should he put taxation on the people of this country who are not receiving any special benefit? They have given their blood and their treasure not alone in direct taxation. Everybody knows what a vast amount has been raised in support of the widows and orphans of our soldiers killed in the war. I heard the hon. Member for Devonport say that when the increase on the income tax was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer it was received with ominous silence on this side of the House. We all believe in the justice of this war, and we are willing to pay for it provided we cannot find a substitute better entitled to pay for it. Who should pay for it but these mine-owners of the Transvaal who were increasing enormously their already bloated fortunes? I regret deeply that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not raise a Transvaal War Loan of a 100 millions at 3 per cent. guaranteed by this country. Although the Transvaal is not able to pay it at this moment, it will in a short time. It has been stated that the Transvaal is ruined. Undoubtedly the farming districts are ruined. There is very little agricultural wealth in the Transvaal. When Mr. Gladstone gave it up in 1881 there was nothing in the Treasury. The whole wealth of the country is in the gold mines, and these mines are just as intact to-day as when they were abandoned in 1899. I do not profess to say that I am as great an authority as Mr. Hayes Hammond, but I have been there; I have been in the mines; I have examined them; I have seen the nature of the strata; and I can tell you that they would not be injured by the delay in opening them. What has been the damage done? Only £200,000 to one mine, and that is a mere nothing compared to the enormous resources of that little district comprising the Rand, extending not more than twenty-five miles beyond Johannesburg. Why does Sir David Barbour not give his Report? Surely he could have visited all the gold mines within twenty-five miles from Johannesburg by this time?

I hark back to my main point. It was not necessary to send out Sir D. Barbour; the Government could have taken the report of the mine-owners themselves. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has, I am sorry to say, taken what I think are retrogressive measures. I do not mean to talk on the income tax or the sugar duty, but we come to what I consider the greatest blot on the Budget—I speak from some experience—and that is the export duty of 1s. per ton on coal. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that it was quite evident that coal could stand an export duty of 1s. per ton when the selling price was 16s. 3d. per ton, according to the Board of Trade returns for last year. He supposes that that tax will not check export; but let me tell him, so far as Scotland is concerned, that it will give a serious check to export, and that it has already done so. What is the price of coal now? I tell him that coal which was selling at 15s. per ton at the pit-head last year is now selling at 8s. per ton, and I would be glad to give him a contract at that figure. It is well known that the largest part of the cost of production of coal is for labour. How is this duty going to affect the 800,000 people who are interested in the production of coal in Great Britain? In Scotland we export a third of our whole production of coal, but in Fifeshire it is two-thirds; and I am sure that county will be very seriously crippled by this duty. Let me give one illustration to show how competition rules in regard to coal in foreign markets. The Hamburg coal market is very important—four million tons being handled, of which probably two million tons are Scotch, which meet on a level with other coal. Now a penny or twopence in the ton will turn the scale of profit and loss. When the price was 16s. 3d. it was not so easy to turn that scale, but when the price is 8s. a ton that is a very different matter, and I can say that this tax of 1s. a ton will almost annihilate the Scotch coal trade in Hamburg. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about the telegrams?] Hon. Members ask me to read these telegrams. [Cries of "Read."] I will give the substance of them: "The Association of Coal Exporters consider that the trade will be ruined by the proposed duty." Contracts have been made forward, and it can be quite easily understood that these contracts cannot be fulfilled and delivery made if they have to pay a shilling per ton duty, when very often the profit may be in pence. That, however, is but a small matter. A more grave question is that the prosperity of many of the shipping ports will be seriously hampered. I do not know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken into consideration that view of the matter. Something like five or six million tons of coal are exported from the shipping ports of the Clyde, and the greater part of that goes out in bulk and enables shippers to bring home freights at a much easier rate. By this tax the Government are most seriously imperilling the shipping supremacy of Great Britain. I predict that they will not maintain it for more than a year or two. They will live to see the folly of it and regret it. Why have the Government not made it an *ad valorem* duty? It is said that foreigners cannot do without South Wales coal. There is a certain amount of truth in that. It holds a peculiar value in the market—giving great heat and little smoke. The Scottish coal is something like Yorkshire coal, burning freely; but the German and Belgian coal will drive the English and Scotch coal out of the market, if the latter is weighted with a duty of 1s. per ton. Why, the direct loss to this country will not be two millions but twenty millions, besides the loss on the shipping trade. For these reasons I object to the passing of this resolution, and though I do not suppose that my protest will be of much avail, I shall be obliged to go into the lobby against the right hon. Gentleman on this part of his proposals.

*SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS (Hartlepool) said he appreciated very much the straightforward speech which the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made in regard to the growing increase of the Supplementary Estimates. He recognised, as he was sure many other hon. Gentlemen did, the difficult position which that system made for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He himself, playing a somewhat important part in the industrial life of the country, felt how serious was the effect of this increasing expenditure upon our position, as compared with that of other countries, in the struggle for the industrial supremacy of the world. They had heard that night how our expenditure was progressing by leaps and bounds. Whatever his opinion might be in regard to the war in South Africa, he was ready and anxious to pay his share in connection with it—whether his contribution were through the income tax or in any other way. But, as one possessing a very considerable area of land in this country, he did not understand why he should be let off by the remission of rates and taxes in connection with his land, and have the burden saddled on him in connection with his commercial concerns. He fully recognised that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had a very great objection to further taxing tea. He remembered that the right hon. Gentleman gave as his reason for not adding to the duty on tea that the existing duty represented something like 40 or 50 per cent. of the value of that article. When he came to the question of sugar, he presented to the Committee a system of a sliding scale of duties in connection with sugar used in households, manufactures, and breweries. But when it came to the question of the duty on coal he did not seem to have given that attention to this important matter which it deserved. Like sugar, they had got various qualities of coal—good coal and inferior coal, large and small—coal worth 12s. 6d. per ton and coal only worth 3s. per ton f.o.b.; yet the right hon. Gentleman proposed to impose one uniform export duty on all of 1s. per ton. A duty of 1s. per ton on coal worth 12s. 6d. per ton represented 8 per cent.; but the same duty on coal worth 3s. per ton represented 33½ per cent., f.o.b., on the value. There was another point in regard to the competition now taking place as to whether the iron ore produced in Sweden, Spain, and other countries should be exported from these countries to this country, or whether the ore should be manufactured into iron and steel by the countries producing it. Possessing as we did the preponderating carrying trade, we had been able to send by our fleets of steamers coal to various countries and bring back the iron ore and manufacture it here into iron and steel, thus giving employment to enormous multitudes of working men. The imposition of a 1s. duty would have the effect that, instead of exporting coal, we would make it into coke and send the coke abroad; and instead of receiving the iron ore from abroad, the countries producing it would themselves manufacture it into iron and steel and throw out of employment hundreds and thousands of working men now earning good wages. Every ton of coke means consuming two tons of coal.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Coke is included in the duty.

Sir Christopher Furness.

*SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS said he had listened very attentively to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, but had not heard that a tax of 1s. per ton was to be placed on coke. If the right hon. Gentleman really proposed to put 1s. per ton on coke, I should like to point out to him that that would be equivalent to 6d. per ton on coal; and consequently the tax would be an inducement to ship, where possible, coke instead of coal. There were many engaged on the north-east coast of England who made contracts two or three years ahead, and it seemed to him that it would be a great hardship that these men should pay a duty of twenty-five per cent. on the free-on-board price of coal. What will be the effect of this duty upon our coal? We stand, practically, equally divided, and if I may, I will venture for a moment or two to give an illustration. For the sake of argument I will take the case of a steamer carrying 4,000 tons of coal. Its expenses from the north-east coast of England to Spain or Norway might amount to £2,000. That will mean 5s. per ton on the coal exported to that country and 5s. per ton on the iron ore which is brought back by the steamer. In that way we arrive at a gross freight of £2,000. If we impose an export duty of 1s. per ton on the coal, that will mean that the ship will be precluded from earning one-half of her freight. The consequence will be that the cost of working the steamer will have to come out of the raw material which is brought back to this country. So that instead of the steamer earning 5s. per ton on the outward cargo the freight would be 1s. per ton less. This would have to be made up on the return cargo, and the cost of the iron imported into this country would, therefore, be increased by that amount, which would be equivalent to an increase of 2s. per ton in every ton of iron we produce from Spanish, Norwegian, and Swedish ores. In that way we shall be increasing the cost of the manufactured article, and instead of our being able to produce the manufactured article cheaper we shall be compelled to increase the price, and this will cripple our trade and place us at a disadvantage in competing with other countries.

It is only a question of a very small margin indeed as to whether we cannot produce the finished article cheaper in Spain than in England. I do hope that the right hon. Gentleman will seriously consider this matter after he has had the advantage of hearing the views of those who are interested in the question. I trust that he will be able to alter his views in regard to the imposition of this duty. From the right hon. Gentleman's statement I was able to gather that he is placed in this position—that after borrowing and manipulating everything he possibly could to meet this enormous expenditure, he finds himself with a deficit of something like £11,000,000. How is it proposed to meet this? It is proposed to add 2d. in the £ to the income tax, which raises £5,000,000. There is to be a halfpenny per pound on sugar, which means £4,000,000; and there is to be 1s. per ton upon exported coal, which is estimated to bring in something like £2,000,000. As showing the sincerity of my desire that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should seriously reconsider this matter of increasing the income tax, I may point out to the Committee that an increase of 1d. in the £ means several thousand pounds to my companies. Again, with regard to the relief which has been given to the landowners—I say this with great respect and not in a boasting spirit—as the possessor of land I am anxious to pay my quota to the rates, and I do not require any remission. With regard to the 1s. per ton upon coal, it may affect me directly, but it will also affect hundreds of thousands of workmen engaged not only in the coal pits, but also in the ironworks throughout the country and in our Mercantile Marine, and it will have a very serious effect upon the industrial life of the nation. I venture to make this assertion, that if the right hon. Gentleman persists in imposing this 1s. per ton on coal it will be the commencement in this country of the American system of establishing enormous trusts. Hon. Members opposite have stated that the foreigners would pay this tax. If they did pay this £2,000,000 on coal, I should have no particular objection to it; but in my opinion the people who will pay this money will be the working men of this country, and the foreigner will not contribute any portion of it. I do hope that the right hon. Gentleman, after he has given more careful consideration to this proposal to impose a duty on coal, will find some other means of meeting the difficulty; otherwise I apprehend the gravest consequences to the industrial and commercial life of the country.

MR. JAMES REID (Greenock): In venturing to address the House for the first time, I claim that indulgence which I know is never refused, and which is one of the oldest and most valued traditions of this House. I should like to say a few words upon this subject, because I represent what was once a very important sugar refining constituency, a trade which I regret to say has now been almost entirely driven out of this country, not by fair competition, but by the introduction of bounty-fed sugar from Continental nations. London, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, as well as my own constituency, have suffered immensely during the last twenty years by this system. I will give hon. Members a single instance of what occurred under my own observation. I know of one large sugar refining business which was established at a cost of a quarter of a million of money some twenty years ago. It went on for a few years, and it was the property of wealthy men who knew what they were about, and the business was worked for a number of years at a loss. I may say that owing to this bounty-fed system that business was ultimately sold for a sum under £20,000. I should like to thank the Chancellor of the Exchequer for putting a differential duty on sugar, and I would ask him to go a little further and put on a countervailing duty, in order to prevent any injustice being done to my own constituency and to British sugar refiners generally. Why should we allow foreigners to bring bounty-fed sugar into this country in order to deprive our legitimate sugar refiners of their trade? A great deal has been said about confectionery, and it is said that this tax will help that trade, but no one trade has a right to prosper by a bounty which drives another trade out of existence. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will keep that in mind and give us some relief. I am not a sugar refiner myself, and so I speak disinterestedly. A former excuse made for not carrying out my suggestion was that we had not the machinery for collecting a countervailing duty, but now that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is introducing a new duty that excuse falls to the ground. I believe there is a possibility of another conference upon this question being held in Brussels. I am told that Germany, Austria, France, and Belgium are willing to abolish these bounties, but that Russia blocks the way. I remember that when I was a young man the sugar refiner was a wealthy man, but to-day he is only a struggling manufacturer, and in many cases he has been ruined. I should like to put this question to the Committee—supposing such trades as the cotton industry of Lancashre, or the iron trade, to which the hon. Member opposite has referred, were confronted with bounty-fed articles opposing them in this country, would they not long ago have risen in their wrath and have compelled any Government to give them some relief? Because the sugar trade was only a small industry the sugar refiners have always got the cold shoulder, and there is a strong feeling that they should now have some relief on this point. I hope the subject will be brought up again in the House before we have finished with the Budget. I thank hon. Members for the courtesy they have shown in listening so attentively to me.

*MR. TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe): As a new Member, addressing the House for the first time, I should like, if it be not impertinent, to congratulate the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the courage, the lucidity, and the straightforwardness of his statement to-night. I noticed that at the very beginning of his remarks he told us that he was not going to be a party to deferring for future years payments which he considered ought to be met now. I at once asked myself what he meant by "party." Is the right hon. Gentleman called upon by any section of this House to be a party to deferring this payment, or can it be that the party is to be found amongst his own friends upon the Front Bench? His attitude upon this question was very emphatic and very creditable to him, but I wondered when I heard his statement if there could possibly be any party who desired that a portion of this expenditure should not be paid at once. The right hon. Gentleman proceeded to tell us frankly that we could not expect him to place additional taxation upon spirits, wine, beer, or tobacco, and this time even tea is to be let alone. That extra 2d. in the pound upon tea is still to remain, in order to meet the requirements of the Agricultural Rating Act. I very much regret that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not maintain his courage when speaking about the effect of the taxation of sugar used by the brewers. He told us that upon that point he was open to reconsider his proposal if arguments could be brought to bear to show that the tax upon sugar used in beer was injurious to the trade. This statement, taken in connection with the taxation of similar objects, is extremely significant, and I regret that he did not give us any indication that he would tax further any of those commodities, the use of which is not always good for the community; and he has reserved his taxation for articles which, at all events, do not injure the consumer, notwithstanding his little sneer against cheap confectionery.

We have had trotted out again the old argument that direct and indirect taxation should be maintained at about the same level, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer took credit for having reduced indirect taxation by one or two per cent. at the expense of direct taxation. Upon this question it may be considered impertinent for a new Member to think at all; but I think there would have been some excuse if, fifty or sixty years ago, a Chancellor of the Exchequer had told us that the balance between direct and indirect taxation would have to be maintained. The past fifty years has taught us that the true policy is to raise taxation with the least amount of friction and incubus upon the industries of the country. After we have had so many lessons in this respect I am not ashamed to stand up here and say that we ought to carry direct taxation still further, and go in the direction of having a free breakfast table. I observe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is going to tax the coal that is taken in the ships, but not in the bunkers, and he gave a hint to the shipowners to make their bunkers larger. What is there to prevent them doing this and making their bunkers larger, so that at other points they may unload their bunkers? What guarantee have we that none of the coal in the bunkers will be sold abroad? He told us that the rise in the price of coal and the cost of freight have had the effect of increasing the shipment of coal. By the same process of reasoning, as the price of coal has now gone down very much, the shippings of coal will be less, and to prevent them declining to nothing at all you are going to put an extra tax on coal! I have had many representations made to me from my constituents, who comprise a great many colliery workers and owners, and I anticipate that they will be very much against this tax on coal. I would much rather that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had remained true to the tradition of which I have always looked upon him as being one of the guardians, and that is the freeing of our trade from every kind of shackle; but at the same time we have a tax placed upon sugar, which is worse than the tax upon coal. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us that this 25 per cent. tax upon the retail price of sugar may disappear in a very short time. If you are going to tax sugar to the extent of 25 per cent., and it is going to disappear, why not tax it 100 per cent. and then there will be no price at all. This is taxing a very large and important industry, which is beneficent to the community and profitable to the nation. The manufactures of biscuits, confectionery, sweets and jam are large and not unimportant industries in this country, and the consumption of the people per head of sugar I think ought to be taken on the higher basis, namely, 90 lb. and not 56 lb. But take the consumption at 56 lb. per head. That means 2s. 4d. per head of the whole population of this country.

Why is this tax on sugar not levied as a poll tax? The reason is, I suppose, that this tax will not be so easily discerned by those who have to pay it. That is one of the reasons why I object to it, for I believe the people should be able to realise what they are paying. Taxation on sugar is open to much the same objections as a tax on bread itself. What is the objection to a tax on corn? Is it not that it would place a tax on the very poorest of the people? Why did Cobden and Bright and all their followers work for Free Trade sixty years ago if it was not in order to better the condition of the poor people in the country? Therefore I object to the taxation of sugar, because it is practically as bad as a tax on bread. The Chancellor of the Exchequer thinks that the rich consume more sugar per head than the poor. I would remind him that a very large proportion of the poor of this country who are too poor to pay for flesh meat consume jam and sweets along with their bread, and I believe that the poor per head consume more sugar than the rich. But this tax is avowedly a tax upon the poor. The taxation of such articles means restricting the consumption; but apart from this, as a matter of national welfare, is it better to restrict the consumption of commodities by the poor or to restrict the extension of the savings of the rich? The working classes are the great consuming classes, and we know how the taxation of raw materials affects them. I venture to say that the taxation of the people's food is as much a tax upon the raw material as the taxation of cotton or wool coming into this country would be. If you do not increase the price of labour, a tax like this is practically robbing the working classes by increasing the price of food. I cannot agree with those who say that the working classes of this country need this particular lesson to teach them the real meaning of war. The great fall in our trade returns is already beginning to teach the working classes any lessons that they may be in need of.

I may be asked what should be taxed? It is not for us to say what should be taxed, but surely there are other sources of national income which might be touched before the sugar of the people. Is there not that large unearned increment of land values? Is there not that least earned of any increment we have ever considered—I mean the value of tied house property belonging to public-house owners? Are these considered to be improper objects for taxation? Are they not as proper objects for taxation as sugar and coal? I remember a speech by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which he asked what ransom were the rich owners of land going to pay for the defence of their country, and the undisturbed possession of their property. Why is the right hon. Gentleman not repeating that phrase to-day? What ransom are the owners of incomes from monopoly businesses in the shape of tied houses prepared to pay for that monopoly while it lasts?

There remains another subject of taxation, namely, the income tax. This is a House of income-tax payers; let us not forget that, and a special duty lies on us to let it be seen that we are not specially tender to the payers of income tax. As a small payer of income tax myself, I should have preferred that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had increased the income tax to 1s. 6d., and thereby have removed the necessity for taxing sugar or exported coal. In the strongest possible manner, therefore, I object to the taxation of sugar. There are only one or two other commodities that can be put in the same category. Water could be taxed—I know the water of the people of London is taxed—salt could be taxed, and corn could be taxed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer says that the finances of our Indian Empire are in an infinitely better condition than our own; but the Indian Government tax a commodity that we have not yet reached; they tax salt. I do not believe in these principles of taxation. I believe the proper way to raise taxation is to go to those who have it, and we ought to rejoice in our ability to find sources of national income rather than tax anything that is used by the very poor. I object to these taxes because they are a restriction of trade, because they mean the impoverishment of the people, and because, whether he means it or not—and I do not think he does—the Chancellor of the Exchequer is initiating a policy of Protection, and is inserting the thin edge of the wedge of Protection that a less wise man than he may some day drive up to the hilt.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS: This is not the occasion to go into detail on the question of the coal duty, but I should like to correct one or two misapprehensions under which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is evidently labouring. I wish at the very earliest moment to enter my very strong protest on behalf of a very large labouring population in South Wales against this coal tax. I have been asked by the hon. Member for Cardiff, who represents the largest coal exporting port in the world, to express his regret that owing to an affection of the throat he is not able to be here to-night to enter his protest also. Although I admire the manliness and candour of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I do not think in regard to this coal tax he has been very well coached. He quoted several authorities, including Mr. Gladstone, in support of this tax. He quoted from something Mr. Gladstone said when he was Vice-President of the Board of Trade, I think, in the early forties. Any opinion Mr. Gladstone may have expressed on this question deserves the attention and consideration of the Committee, and I myself, as an expert on this question, would attach very great weight indeed to it, because I believe no man understood the coal question in its broad aspects so well as Mr. Gladstone. In 1860, when Mr. Gladstone was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and when the question of the commercial treaty with France came before the House, he very strongly advocated it, and that treaty provided that there should be no export duty on coal shipped from this country to France.

Then the right hon. Gentleman quoted —I make no complaint of it—from a few notes published a few years ago by myself. He dignified those notes with the title of a book, and he seemed to rather pride himself that his enemy had written a book on the matter. The right hon. Gentleman, with all his great ability and financial experience, has very little experience as a commercial or business man, and he does not appear to appreciate the difference as touching competition between an addition of 2s. to the price of coal when it was 9s. 6d. and a 1s. duty when the price of coal is 16s. or 17s., as it is to-day. The object I had in writing the few notes which the right hon. Gentleman referred to was this. The coal trade in South Wales and the North of England was at that time in a state of great depression. A large number of collieries were working at a loss, and believing that the low prices were due to the competition between the coal-owners themselves, I felt—and the experience of the last few years has shown that I was right—that the addition of a couple of shillings on the then price would not materially affect the demand or prejudice the position of exporters in neutral markets as regards the competition of the United States or other countries. If the right hon. Gentleman had only read those few notes a little more carefully he would see that in the scheme I propounded it was provided that when the price of coal reached 11s. or 12s. the scheme would cease to operate altogether, because I felt that when coal had reached that figure foreign competition might be a very important factor indeed. To-day, with the best class of Welsh steam coal at 17s., a duty of a shilling in the present state of the coal trade will make all the difference in the world as regards foreign competition.

The right hon. Gentleman says that our coal exports have increased very largely in recent years, but it must be remembered that the exports from the United States have also increased from 20,000 or 30,000 tons to 600,000 tons to European markets. The right hon. Gentleman has imposed this tax for the purpose of providing a couple of millions, but he at the same time rather appeared to indicate that one of his objects was to conserve the coal of this country to ourselves. The right hon. Gentleman must see that the idea of limiting the export is inconsistent with the raising of revenue. If by the imposition of this tax he can prevent coal from being exported, he will not derive any revenue from it. I would wish to know how this duty is to be levied and collected. Large quantities of coal have been already sold, and this duty comes at a very inopportune time, as many contracts have been already entered into. The right hon. Gentleman says that the foreign consumer is going to pay this duty, but as regards the contracts which have been already entered into, either free-on-board or c.i.f., how is the foreign consumer to pay this duty? I as a coal sale agent have entered into contracts, and the foreign consumer will not pay the duty on them. I know there is a difference of opinion on the subject in coal circles, and I therefore wish to know who will have to pay this duty—the buyer or the seller? With regard to the contracts which have already been entered into, the imposition of the duty will be a very serious matter to the middlemen and merchants of Cardiff and Newport, and will practically mean ruin to the small man. He is not a producer of coal himself; he makes contracts for hundreds of thousands of tons, on which he sees a probable profit of 3d. or 6d. per ton. After he has made his contract the Chancellor of the Exchequer comes along and says he must pay a duty of 1s. per ton. This is not a question which will affect coal-owners and miners only—it is really a duty upon tonnage. the right hon. Gentleman says he is not going to put the duty upon bunkers, but he is going to put it on all coal exported from this country, whether used on boats sailing under the British flag or not. A very large proportion of the coal exported from this country is used by British ships and British subjects abroad. A French boat coming into Newport to take bunkers on board and to sail to Malta will pay no duty at all upon those bunkers, but a British boat, sailing under the British flag, coaled by British people in Malta, and coming from Malta back to Newport, will have to pay 1s. a ton upon that coal. Where does the principle come in? The right hon. Gentleman says the foreign consumer will have to pay. In this case the foreigner is let off free, while the British subject has to pay. But I rose mainly to point out the misapprehension of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to myself and to ask one or two questions. I hope in his reply he will explain very clearly the incidence of this duty, and whether in the case of free-on-board sales and contracts the duty will be paid by the buyer or the seller.

*MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire): I listened with much attention and anmiration to the able and lucid speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I regretted very much that he made no allusion to any proposal for the purpose of counteracting the injurious effects of the bounty system upon both our colonial and our home sugar industries. In connection with these bounties the British

Government has a two-fold duty to perform—in the first place, in regard to the working-men connected with sugar refineries, and in the second place in regard to our colonies, in seeing that they have at least fair play, and are allowed to continue their industries under absolutely free trade conditions. What has been our course during the last twenty or thirty years? We have accepted—in many cases welcomed—a gigantic system of protection practised by various continental countries, which has given an enormous advantage to the sugar producers of those countries, taken a very large amount of land in Europe for purposes to which it might have been much better devoted, rendered desolate and uninhabited vast tracts in the tropics, ruined the sugar industry in the West Indies, and taken the bread out of the mouths of tens of thousands of working-men in this country. At this juncture the Chancellor of the Exchequer had a splendid opportunity of completely redressing all these grievances, and I am very sorry he has not availed himself of it. He has had a brilliant precedent afforded him by the India Council, which two years ago imposed countervailing duties for the purpose of saving the sugar industry of the East Indies. In supporting countervailing duties I speak absolutely as a free-trader, and in the interests of free trade. Like Ruskin, I would like to see trade between the nations as frank and free as honesty and the sea-winds can make it, but if a continental country puts on a bounty, which is a very injurious form of protection, and it is taken off at the port of entry on this side, that is simply adjusting the conditions to almost absolute free trade principles, and giving respective industries the same fair play as they would have had under what are commonly known as free trade principles. I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a certain extent approves of this principle, because in dealing with articles of competition for foreign countries, of which sugar is a component part, he is willing to tax them to the extent of £240,000. Why has he not extended this principle to the sugar industry of the West Indies, and the sugar-refining interests of this country? I am at a loss to know. I admit that in his graduated scale of duties on sugar he has given a very great advantage to the sugar refiners of this country over that which they already possess, but he has not given them all they require to meet the competition of bounty-fed sugar, while he has left our West Indian colonists entirely in the cold. If we do not give them any advantage over even the most hostile countries, we are bound, at least, to afford them fair play; and I think, it is not yet too late for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to revise his proposals of taxation and to arrange a scheme of countervailing duties which would at least give the colonists that measure of fair play. If the right hon. Gentleman considers the present time is not opportune for the imposition of such countervailing duties in the face of the Convention shortly to be held at Brussels, I think if he were to give a firm indication that if the bounty-giving countries would not come to reasonable terms he would impose countervailing duties, for which he has the machinery completely to his hand, he would greatly strengthen the hands of our Commissioners at the Convention, and make it almost an absolute certainty that the bounties would entirely disappear in the course of the present year. I very strongly commend what I have said to the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*Mr. HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham) said that at the last General Election in his address he pledged himself to oppose any proposal which would be likely to hamper or hinder trade, and he expressly placed an export duty on coal in that category. Neither he nor his constituents thought the Government would go to the extreme length of proposing such a duty, but, seeing that it was now brought forward, it was the duty of the Committee to examine the proposal and see whether or not they approved of it. He opposed such a duty because it aimed a heavy blow at a very important industry, and it was the business of the Legislature to help rather than to hinder the industries of the country. If the effect of the proposal was to limit the exportation of coal it would also have the effect of reducing the earnings of 600,000 men engaged in the coal industry and of diminishing the comforts of the 3,000,000 people who might be dependent upon the earnings of those men. The miners of the country certainly deserved better treatment than that at the hands of Parliament. The hardships of their lot were bad enough without their calling being singled out for such a heavy blow as this. Not only would the earnings of the miners be diminished by the coal. duty, but the burden of taxation would be increased by the sugar duty. The sugar duty, at any rate, hit everybody in some degree or other, but the proposal with regard to coal hit only a section of the community. The Chancellor of the Exchequer desired not to stop the exportation of coal, but to raise a revenue. He would, however, receive the support of hon. Members who had an entirely different object in view—Members who were anxious to have coal exports stopped because they feared the early exhaustion of the coalfields. There was, after all, no prospect of such exhaustion, as the recent high prices had induced a more economical use of coal, and, in addition to that, large new coalfields had been discovered. It had been mentioned, in the course of the debate, that the use of electricity would probably diminish the use of coal. He would like to point out that the generation of electricity required that coal should be used, so that he did not think too much importance should be attached to that particular argument. In other countries the use of liquid fuel was largely increasing, and that would diminish one of the demands which had hitherto caused the use of coal. He thought, taking all these facts into consideration, they might look forward to the future with considerable composure, but even if our coalfields were to run short we had in our colonies vast stores of coal, and by drawing upon these we should do something for the consolidation of the Empire.

At a recent meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce a resolution was brought forward in favour of an export duty on coal, and after discussion it was seen that it would not hold water, and the resolution was quickly dropped. The duty on sugar would fall far the most heavily on the industrial classes of the community. If they limited themselves to what was called the taxable margin of a man's income, then from that point of view the sugar tax was altogether indefensible. It violated the principle of equality of sacrifice on which our great statesmen had laid stress for many years. The present Colonial Secretary fifteen years ago referred at Warrington to that very point, and said that taxation ought to involve equality of sacrifice, and that he did not see how that result was to be obtained except by some form of graduated taxation. He objected to the tax because it was the raw material of a number of other industries. He was glad the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated his intention of granting a drawback on the export of goods made from sugar. Another great blot on the Budget was the visionary contribution from the gold mines of South Africa. It had gradually become more and more visionary during the last few months. He thought public opinion had become all the more sensitive since the announcement was made a few days ago that the Chartered Company was to be relieved of its intended contribution in connection with the Jameson raid. He trusted that as the result of the debate the Chancellor of the Exchequer would stiffen his back, and be resolutely determined that the gold mines of South Africa should not be allowed to escape a substantial contribution towards the expenses of the war.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member who has just sat down, I think there has been some misunderstanding as to my views with regard to the contribution of the Transvaal, and I think that misunderstanding was shared by my hon. friend the Member for Falkirk. I did not intend to say anything to-night to the effect that the idea of a contribution from the Transvaal has now become visionary or illusory. That is not my notion at all; but what I did wish to point out to the Committee was that there was no early or immediate prospect of any such contribution. I went on to point out that there were very valuable asssets belonging to the Government of the Transvaal, particularly mineral assets, from which such contribution might come, but that it was impossible for us, or for any one in the present condition of the country, until the termination of the war and the establishment of an ordinary Government and a new system of taxation, to say what that contribution should be, or what the Transvaal could afford to pay. The hon. Member may rest assured that as long as I am Chancellor of the Exchequer I shall not leave the question out of my view, and, on the contrary, that I shall do the very best, as I am quite sure my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary will also, to obtain whatever may be possible to be obtained from that source. But I thought it right frankly to point out to the Committee the position of affairs as it is at the present time, so far as I have learnt it from Sir D. Barbour, and to explain that for the moment, and for a certain time before us, we could not expect to derive any contribution.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the ordinary Government being set up, and said that when that Government was set up a contribution might be expected from them. I suppose the ordinary Government will be themselves the judges.

***Sir M. HICKS BEACH**: We shall hear what the ordinary Government have to say, but the ultimate decision must rest with the Imperial Government. My hon. friend the Member for Falkirk said we ought to have issued a Transvaal loan for 100 millions at 3 per cent., instead of borrowing in the ordinary way on the credit of the Imperial Government. Really, to issue such a loan on the credit of a State which is at present at war, which in many respects is in a ruined state [Opposition cheers, and an Hon. Member: Guarantee it.] Yes, but what is the use of our guaranteeing it? You had much better raise it on our own credit.

There are one or two points raised by hon. Members in the debate to which I wish to allude. Several hon. Gentlemen have protested against the proposed export duty on coal. I expected those protests from hon. Members representing constituencies intimately connected with the coal-producing interests. But I did not expect such a protest from the hon. Member for Merthyr, and I cannot understand how, while he believes he could have raised artificially the price of coal by 2s. a ton when the trade was very depressed and coal was selling at 9s. 6d. a ton, he can argue that an addition of 1s. a ton on the same coal when it is selling at 17s. will ruin the trade. That is a proposition which, I think, would not have occurred to the hon. Member if the 2s. had not been intended for his pocket and the 1s. for mine.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: When coal was selling at 9s. 6d. foreign competition was not to be feared. At 17s. it would be disastrous.

***Sir M. HICKS BEACH**: The hon. Member has a perfect right to change his mind; and perhaps I was a little unfair in taking the argument which he intended for one purpose and applying it to another. I am very grateful to the right hon. Member for West Monmouth and to my hon. friend the Member for Exeter and to my hon. friend the Member for Whitby for their aid to my endeavours, however unsuccessful so far, to indoctrinate the public and this House —and, I am bound to add, my own colleagues also—with a desire for economy. If we could get the public to believe that all these great additions to expenditure, however necessary, had to be paid for— and often paid for by unpopular taxes— then there would be a greater desire to scrutinise expenditure very carefully before it is incurred, and not to incur it except where there is a real and absolute necessity for it. I have not seen that tendency for some years past in the public mind; and I think the right hon. Gentleman will agree that it is not only during the term of office of the present Government that there has been a failure in the public mind of that sense of the necessity for economy which used to be prevalent twenty or thirty years ago. The hon. Member for Merthyr asked me who would pay the duty on coal. I understand that the person who applies to the Customs for leave to put the coal on board will pay the duty. Several hon. Members have alluded to forward contracts which have already been made. That is not an easy matter, and I shall be much obliged if hon. Members will communicate with me on the subject. Probably the best way to deal with it will be to imitate, at any rate, the principle of the section inserted in the Finance Act of last year with regard to tea and other goods of that kind on which the duty was increased. Perhaps the law might be framed so as to enable a person who had made a contract here to break his contract unless the person with whom he made the contract abroad were willing to pay the 1s. duty. That is the effect of the section of the Act of last year, under which practically the duty may be added to the price agreed upon, so that the person who might ship the coal would not pay out of his own pocket.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): That will apply to sugar also?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Yes, that will apply to sugar. The hon. Member for Waterford made a very eloquent speech dealing with the poverty of Ireland, the contribution of Ireland to the Imperial revenue, and the connection of Ireland with Imperial expenditure. The hon. Member will, I hope, pardon me if I do not follow him into the questions he raised in respect of Ireland to-night. They are of great importance, and he discussed them with great ability and eloquence. No doubt we shall have an opportunity later on of going fully into the subject. But I would say two things. I know how unpleasant and unsatisfactory it is to anybody to be told that he is not so poor as he tries to appear, but I think Ireland is better off and increasing more in prosperity than hon. Members would represent her to be. I will say nothing more on that subject. I do not wish to say anything disagreeable to hon. Members. At any rate, I believe that things are better, and becoming better, in Ireland than was actually represented in the speech of the hon. Member, and, although no doubt it is a fact that the payment of Ireland to the revenue derived from taxation has increased in recent years—I have not the figures by me to verify the statistics given by the hon. Member—yet the hon. Member omitted entirely to state that the contribution of Great Britain to the Imperial revenue had increased by a far larger amount, and I believe it would be found on inquiry that at the present time, on the estimated revenue and expenditure of the year before us, Ireland would pay about 1s. 5½d. when Great Britain would pay 21s. I am bound, putting altogether aside the question of the way in which the revenue is expended (which to my mind has a material bearing), to say that if I am correct in those figures the position is not so bad for Ireland as the hon. Member represented.

I hope the Committee may be willing shortly to allow these resolutions to pass. I would venture to point out that by doing so they do not express any approval of the policy of the Budget or the proposals of the Budget, but simply do what has invariably been done in the case of any Budget I can remember—namely, that the Committee gives its assent to the resolutions in order that, as is absolutely necessary, the Customs may levy the duties on the following day. If upon subsequent discussion either the sugar duty or the coal duty should be disapproved of by the House, every penny so levied would be returned to those who paid it, and nobody would be any the worse. I hope that in these circumstances we may be allowed to take these resolutions, and, if there is no objection, I would also ask that the loan resolution might be taken. ["No, no."] I would venture to say that in these matters time is of great importance, and the delay of a loan, after the announcement that it is intended to borrow is made, often has a very prejudicial effect upon the terms on which it is effected. I am in the hands of the Committee with regard to it, and, though I will not press them if they are not willing, I hope they will agree. At any rate, I hope they will give me the resolution for sugar and the resolution on coal.

*MR. LOUGH: The request made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to me to be a reasonable one if we are to understand that discussion on all these subjects can go on to-morrow. There are many details with regard to this tax of great importance which have not been mentioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and which I would much rather bring forward later on. If, however, we are not to be allowed to deal with this question of sugar to-morrow, I would ask the Committee to bear with me while I call attention to these matters.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I understand that it would not be in order to discuss these resolutions on the other resolutions to-morrow, but we are prepared to give opportunities for their discussion on Report.

*MR. LOUGH: The Committee has really not given these two resolutions that consideration which they deserve. There is first the question of Excise. What will be done with regard to glucose? If an announcement is made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to-night that an Excise duty will be placed on glucose, the manufacture of that article in large quantities will commence within a week. [The Chancellor of the Exchequer here indicated that glucose manufactured in this country would be subjected to an Excise duty.] Supposing beet sugar is produced in this country, will an Excise duty be levied upon it? The sugar duty is one of the most serious proposals ever laid before this House, and it really ought not to pass this first stage without a little more consideration. We are imposing a duty of 4s. 2d. on refined sugar, ranging down to 2s. on raw sugar. The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the range of difference in the price of sugar was as between 8s. and 13s. Therefore, the right hon. Gentleman is putting 4s. 2d. on the 13s. which makes it 17s. 2d., and he is only putting 2s. on the 8s. article; and so he has created a difference of 7s. 2d. in the market where the difference to-day is only 5s. That is an extraordinary thing to do in this House to-night without any discussion. Why differentiate the duty in this way? The inevitable effect will be that advantage will be taken of the low duty to bring in as much common sugar as possible, and it will be refined and adulterated in this country, and sold as the high-priced sugar. The Committee will recognise that this is a matter of the greatest importance, and this differentiating of the duty is a great mistake. If there is to be any difference at all, it should only be 6d. per cwt., putting 4s. 2d. on refined sugar and 3s. 8d. on raw sugar, giving 6d. for alleged loss of weight in refining. We should then be acting in accordance with the principles of Free Trade. I am afraid that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has fallen into a mistake with regard to this. Then, there is a tremendous importation of foreign preserved fruit. Will there be a duty levied on foreign fruits preserved in sugar, and on everything else preserved in sugar? I do not think the Committee has any idea as to the great interference with trade caused by this duty. By to-morrow morning everything which has been left out will create a great stir in the market, and every man will be trying to take advantage of what we have forgotten to include. This duty is a breach of the two most serious canons on which our duties have been levied in this country for the last forty or fifty years. The first is that we should not levy a tax upon the great articles consumed by the people, and the second is that we should not levy a tax on raw material. Now sugar is both. Sugar is the third greatest article of consumption. Grain is first, meat is second, and sugar is third. Sugar is the foundation of a great many other manufactures to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not referred in his speech. I do not think that the right hon. Gentleman has appreciated the importance of the manufactures which are founded upon sugar. He referred in his speech to the Act of 1876, which enables corresponding duties to be levied on all the substances containing sugar. It does not appear that that principle covers the case of saccharine. [Cries of "Divide, divide."] I hope hon. Members will not interrupt me, for I have not said a word which is irrelevant. Saccharine contains about three hundred times as much sweetening property as sugar. That would require a duty of 12s. in the £ at the outside, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer has said that the duty is to be 20s. Why should the duty on saccharine be more than is necessary to make it correspond with the duty on sugar? I venture to submit these suggestions to the Committee.

MR. T. M. HEALY: On a question of procedure, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked the Committee to take these resolutions to-night, and also to take the Vote for the loan, and he says that this was done last year under the Finance Act. I think it is very important that the Committee should understand with regard to money matters exactly where we are. This is a matter of far reaching constitutional importance. When the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth introduced his Finance Bill, he earmarked the title of "Finance Act" in order to show that it was for the purpose of raising duty and not for the purpose of a loan. Now the War Loan Act of last year and the Finance Act had not only different titles but totally different preambles. If the procedure now proposed is to continue, it may be possible in one Committee of Ways and Means to raise the duties on beer and spirits and also to provide for the compulsory purchase of land in Ireland, and two subjects, one a loan and the other a levy, could be dealt with by the same Committee. This involves a further consideration. We never know what is in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's lucky or unlucky bag of resolutions until they are read out from the Chair, and I have never understood that Ways and Means ever governed anything except what came under the head of the Finance Act. Yet to-night it is proposed to give the right hon. Gentleman the power to raise this money, and forsooth we are to have, after 12 o'clock, another resolution which we have not seen, and which is to be dealt with under the same procedure. I acknowledge that the right hon. Gentleman is entitled for his fearlessness and general courtesy to some consideration, and we are told that we shall have a further allotment of time for the discussion of these very important subjects, but having regard to the fact that the rules and forms of the House, which are sometimes sneered at, are its safeguards, and should be strictly adhered to, and also having regard to the closure, we are entitled to demand that the rules of the House shall not be departed from in this matter.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I have no reason to blame the hon. Member for having raised this point. I can assure him that the rules of the House, which in matters of this kind are of great importance, are being accurately followed. I think the hon. Member, however, is under some misconception. He pointed out quite rightly that last year the War Loan Act was one Act and the Finance Act was another Act. So they will be again this year. But last year the Committee of Ways and Means sat on the 25th of March, and the first resolution passed was a War Loan Resolution—precisely the same kind of resolution that I propose to submit now,—and immediately following on that the same Committee of Ways and Means passed the Income Tax Resolution, the Contract Notes Resolution, and the Estate Duty Resolution. Subsequently, of course, these three last resolutions were embodied in the Finance Act, and the War Loan Resolution was embodied in the War Loan Act. Precisely the same course will be taken now. The loan resolution will be embodied in a separate Bill, and there will be ample opportunity for full discussion of the loan apart from the Finance Bill. I hope that will satisfy the hon. Member. With regard to the question of the hon. Member for West Islington, the duty on saccharine has been very carefully calculated. It is, of course, very high, but the best information I can obtain puts the sweetening power of saccharine, as compared with sugar, very much higher than the hon. Member has stated, and, therefore, the duty is correspondingly high. The hon. Member may rest assured that there will be ample opportunity for discussing the details of the proposals.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: On a point of order, may I submit to you, Sir, that last year the point was not taken, and the precedent of last year is, therefore, not an established precedent. The right hon. Gentleman has not informed us if this was ever done before last year. If the House passes a thing *per incuriam* it does not follow as a matter of course that it is an established precedent. But I respectfully submit to you, Sir, having regard to the practice of dealing with the Finance Act and the shape into which it was put by the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire, that the passing of resolutions at one sitting to be afterward formulated into separate Bills is in itself a breach of the practice of the House.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: May I ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the practice with reference to the supplementary loans, which do not form part of the Budget proposals? Are they initiated in Committee of Ways and Means? With reference to the remark of the hon. Member for North

Louth, I remember that objection was taken to the Finance Bill of 1894 because it dealt not only with taxation, but also with the National Debt, and Mr. Goschen moved a resolution insisting upon the Bills being separated. I certainly claimed at that time that the whole financial arrangements of the year could be dealt with in the same Bill. All loans are initiated in Committee of Ways and Means. If they were initiated in separate Committees, then, of course, the objection of the hon. Member would decidedly apply. The only question is whether there ought not to be separate Committees of Ways and Means.

*The CHAIRMAN: There is only one Committee of Ways and Means, and it is not possible to move for a separate Committee of Ways and Means in order to consider a separate resolution. The Committee of Ways and Means having been set up, it is open to the Committee to consider any resolution which deals with finance. But when these resolutions are accepted and passed by the Committee it would not be right to put into a Finance Bill dealing with the finance of the year proposals for raising a loan to be repaid after a certain number of years or a loan in perpetuity.

Mr. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne): May I ask whether we shall have an ample opportunity to-morrow, or on Monday or Tuesday, to discuss this important question of the tax upon coal? I speak on behalf of other Members for coal constituencies. I would point out to the Leader of the House that while this question is in abeyance it is paralysing the export of coal, and therefore it is absolutely necessary that it should be settled promptly. It will greatly depend upon the right hon. Gentleman's answer whether we shall vote for this resolution.

Mr. KEARLEY: What has been urged by the last speaker in regard to coal is of far more importance in relation to sugar. There are imported into this country no less than 60,000 tons per year of articles containing sugar in some form or other. I take the figures from the Board of Trade Returns for last year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us to-night what is to be the duty on these articles; and I really think that before we pass these resolutions we ought to get some information on the point. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told us in his speech that there was no intention of giving any preferential treatment to the sugar refiners in this country. Refined sugar polarising 98 degrees is to be charged 4s. 2d. per cwt. I would like the right hon. Gentleman to tell us on what basis he reduces the duty to 2s. per cwt. on sugar that polarises no more than 76 degrees. I do not suppose that the right hon. Gentleman intends to subsidise the British refiners to the extent of 1s. per cwt., but his scheme actually does that; and I can name a firm that will take £200,000 a year out of this subsidy. What is the explanation that can be offered? It is urged that the waste in manufacture has to be taken into consideration; but surely the manufacturer in Germany has to sacrifice waste in manufacture. I would like to know who has advised the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this matter; for I am perfectly sure he has been wrongly advised. The Chancellor of the Exchequer mentioned that he had consulted an association which was at present acting as between the refiners and merchants and shippers in this country and the German beet refiners and shippers. But all the interests should be consulted. The refiners are, of course, interested persons, and if they get a concession such as is proposed they will get wonderfully well out of the duty. I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will give the trade an opportunity of pointing out that the scale of polarising between 98 and 76 degrees is altogether wrong, and that it will enormously subsidise the refinersin this country, although he has told us in clear terms that that is not his intention.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I endeavoured to explain to the Committee in the course of my speech that this scale has been arrived at under circumstances of great difficulty, and, of course, before the duty is proposed it is really impossible to consult everybody who ought to be consulted in the matter. I wish to state that it is our intention not to protect the British refiners, but to put them on a fair basis with refiners abroad. If the scale does more than that, it ought to be altered.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour Manchester, E.): My hon. friend the Member for Newcastle has put a question with regard to the order of discussion. My friend wants an opportunity of discussing the coal duty to-morrow or on Monday or Tuesday. I understand that it will be impossible to discuss it to-morrow, when we shall continue the debate on the remaining resolutions. The next opportunity, and by no means the last, for discussing these proposals of the Government will be on the Report of these resolutions. When that is disposed of, there will, on the Second Reading of the Finance Bill, be again full opportunity to discuss all these important topics. Again, after the Second Reading there will be a Committee stage, when the proposals will be before the House in a form in which they cannot be upon these preliminary resolutions. I think, therefore, that my hon. friend will have the fullest opportunity of having these schemes thrashed out.

MR. RENWICK: When will the Report be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Report cannot be taken on Monday, because we are pledged to give that night to discuss the Irish University question on the motion that the Speaker leave the Chair. I should hope that the Report on the resolutions may be taken on Tuesday, but if not I shall endeavour to fix an early day.

MR. RENWICK: I do not wish a multiplicity of days to discuss this question. What I clearly see is that until this question is settled the export of coal will be practically demoralised; and it ought to be settled as quickly as possible. So far as I can judge, it may be two or three weeks.

MR A. J. BALFOUR: The immediate result of the passing of the resolutions is that the duty is levied; but if on any subsequent occasion the House sees fit to throw out or modify the Budget proposals then those who have been injured by the levying of the duty will be recouped. Meantime, the duty will be levied to-morrow morning. My hon. friend is quite right when he says that it will never do for any trade to be unsettled.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: I ask whether it will be possible on the Report stage of these resolutions to discuss the general policy of the Budget, in the way rather initiated to-night by my right hon. friend near me; or whether the discussion will be confined to one proposal after another, each proposal being dealt with specifically?

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I ask whether it would be possible to discuss the general policy of the Budget on the resolutions which are not to be taken to-night?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That is always the practice.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): The Leader of the House said that the duties will come into operation this morning. That practically means that all subsequent discussion will only be of an academic kind.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If at any stage of these preceedings the House were to decide that the proposals of the Government were not acceptable, their past effect would be abolished.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: My point is this, that if once the House to-night endorses these resolutions, the chance of their being rescinded or modified in the future is very remote indeed. Now I regret exceedingly that the party above the gangway on this side of the House is going without protest to allow the country to be dragged back to the old policy of Protection. [Cries of "No, no."] Hon. Members say "No, no," but it will be the story of the War Office over again. The first false step taken to-night, then step by step, bit by bit, we will land ourselves where we were forty or fifty years ago. Speaking in a special sense for the working classes, I entirely endorse the view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the working classes should be made to pay direct their share of the extra war expenditure, extra naval expenditure, and extra military expenditure generally. If the working classes could be made to feel that all this military glory is costing them something it would make them consider how far the glory was worth the cost. But the right hon. Gentleman is not taking the necessary steps to make the working classes feel that they are paying for the war glory. The tax on sugar will fall on the working man's wife, and not on the working man himself. It is going to be a very serious matter to the woman who has to maintain herself and her three, or four, or five children in decency on £1 or 25s. a week. A tax of ½d. per pound on sugar will mean an extra expenditure of 3d. per week in most houses of the poor, which will be immeasurably greater than twopence on the income tax. My point is that the bulk of the tax will fall with the greatest severity on the very poorest classes of the community. Everyone who understands the condition of life among the very poor, knows that tea and bread form their staple diet, and every sweated victim in London and in every other centre of industry will be taxed to pay for this war. I am not discussing this matter from the point of view of trade, as other hon. Members have done, but from the point of view of the principle involved. If a fresh tax had to be found, surely an article of food required by the poor should not be selected, but the surplus wealth of the country of which we have heard so much this evening should be taxed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer tells us that the income of the country liable to be assessed for income tax had risen during the past twelve years by £120,000,000 per annum. If that be so, surely some means might have been found of securing a proportion of it, rather than having to put this burdensome and iniquitous tax on sugar, and thereby inflict an injustice on the very poorest. Now I come to the tax on coal. I do not believe that the export tax on coal will reduce the quantity exported by a single ton. I will tell you what it will do for a certainty. It will reduce the colliers' wages very considerably. There will come a time when the present crisis will have passed away, when the competition between this country and its continental rivals will be again as keen as formerly, and when it will be impossible for the colliery proprietors of this country to maintain their position in the continental markets if they have to pay the present rate of wages and this export duty. When that time is reached, what is going to happen? Employers and employees will agree that it is better to have wages reduced, and retain our foreign trade than give up our foreign trade and go without employment. This export duty is really a tax upon one section of the working class community, and a section which I venture to say the House of Commons would not willingly punish by imposing a burthen upon it not borne by other sections of the community. I am going to vote against both these resolutions, because I believe that the sugar tax and the export duty on coal are both wrong in principle. We have gone far enough astray as it is from the policy which made this country prosperous, and I would appeal to hon. Members not to give their sanction to a further departure, which would make it necessary to begin all over again the work which the Free Traders did. I trust the House will not sanction proposals which are so dangerous to the prosperity of the country, and so unjust to certain sections of the community.

MR. GUTHRIE (Tower Hamlets, Bow) said he wished to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect the tax on sugar would have on the confectionery industry. He would also like some information as to how the Customs authorities were going to arrive at the percentage of sugar in a manufactured article. His constituents were very much interested in the matter.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH said that the provision already applied to all dutiable goods in articles like cocoa and chocolate, and was very simply administered

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said that at that hour of the night it was perfectly impossible to debate the resolutions, and in discharge of his duty to his constituents he begged to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Major Jameson*).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the hon. Gentleman will not persist in his motion. It is absolutely necessary—I am sure the right hon. Gentleman opposite will agree with me—that these resolutions should be passed to-night.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I must support the right hon. Gentleman in what he has just said. It is necessary for the protection of the Revenue that these resolutions should be passed, and I understood from the Chancellor of the

Exchequer that the general debate can be reopened to-morrow.

MAJOR JAMESON said matters of importance to his constituents were involved, and he could not get any information as to whether he would be precluded from speaking to-morrow. He would therefore persist in his motion.

Question put and negatived. Original Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 183; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 127.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Col.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, Hon. A G H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Green, Walford D (Wednesb'ry
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Harris, Frank Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law; Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge; Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lowe; Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie; A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners; Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (W'lth'mst'w
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robt Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C (N'rthmb. Tyneside
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M‘Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H. (Asht'n-und-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, William Henry
Hutton, Alfred
Jameson, Major J. E.(Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mather, William
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr.John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas,J A(GlamorganGower
Thompson E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, ThomasCourtenayT.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whitely, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

Resolved, That there shall be charged on and after the nineteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and one, the following customs import duties:—

	The Cwt.	
	s.	*d.*
Sugar of a polarisation exceeding 98 degrees	2	4
Sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 76 degrees	2	0
and intermediate duties varying between 4s. 2d. and 2s. on sugar of a polarisation not exceeding 98 and exceeding 76 degrees.		
Molasses (including all sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be tested by the polariscope)	2	0
Glucose	1	8
	The Oz.	
Saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use)	1	3

And that duty shall be charged in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule from The Customs Tariff Act, 1876, on goods containing as a part or ingredient thereof any article liable to any of the above duties.

And that the exemption under the same Schedule from the duty on plums of plums preserved in sugar shall cease.

COAL.

2. Motion made, and Question put, "That there shall be charged on and after the nineteenth day of April one thousand nine hundred and one the following customs export duty on Coal:—

	Per Ton.	
	s.	*d.*
Coal (including culm, coke, cinders, and manufactured fuel)	1	0"

—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 171; Noes, 127. (Division List No. 128.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickinson, Robert Edmund
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Dawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Rbt. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. Geo. Joachim
Green, Walford D (Wednesb'ry
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield Brightside
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macartney, Rt. Hn W G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Macolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesh.)
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walthams'w
Morley, Rt. Hn John (Montrose
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renmant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hereford, E.)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Strutt, Hn. Chas. Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Gilhooly, James

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, William Henry
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M‘Cann, James
M‘Crae, George
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M,Govern, T.
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, James(Stirlingshire
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mather, William
Minch, Matthew,
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Alfred(Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower
Thompson, E C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond(Merioneth
Wilson, John (Falkirk)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. D. A. Thomas and Mr. Burt.

Resolutions to be reported.

LOAN.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and two, sums not exceeding sixty million pounds may be raised by all or any of the following methods:—

(a) by means of the creation of two and three-quarter per cent. Consolidated stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888; or

(b) by means of the issue of further War Stock or War Bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or

(c) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills; or

(d) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds;

and that the principal of, and interest on, any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I rise for the purpose of moving that you, Sir, report progress. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer will realise that it is unreasonable to ask us at ten minutes past two in the morning to enter upon this question. The question involved in this resolution is one which must be discussed, and he will be ready to admit that adequate and reasonable discussion could not be taken at this hour. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman will see that the motion I make is a reasonable one.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. John Redmond*)—put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee also report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes) Bill, considered in Committee; Committee report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at a quarter after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 19*th April*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

KINGSCOURT, KEADY, AND ARMAGH RAILWAY BILL. (BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid), in moving that the Bill be read a second time that day six months, said he hoped hon. Members would bear with him while he endeavoured to convince them that this was not a measure which ought to receive the sanction of Parliament, and that it was one that was utterly opposed to public policy inasmuch as it increased a monopoly which had already grown to a too serious extent, in addition to which it might be described as a bold attempt to set aside a well considered discussion of the House of Commons. He trusted that hon. Members would come to the conclusion that it was nothing more or less than an insidious attempt to get round a deliberate decision of Parliament and to adopt a course which was in the highest degree injurious to the public interest. He would not enter into details as to the evil existing from the present railway monopoly. What he proposed to do was to attempt to show that this measure amounted to a breach of faith with Parliament and the public, and that moreover it was being promoted solely in the interests of the monopolists and was contrary to public policy. The new railway proposed to be constructed under the Bill was a junction connecting the Kingscourt and Armagh Railway with the Great Northern Railway at Castleblaney. It was proposed to abandon a line, the construction of which had been authorised, between Kingscourt and Castleblaney, where it would join the Midland Great Western Railway. The line it was proposed to abandon was really a competitive and alternative route from Dublin to Armagh and other great towns in the North of Ireland. One of the striking advantages of the original scheme was that it would open up an entirely new district and would afford competition. That scheme received the sanction of a Committee of the House of Commons, whilst a scheme practically identical with that of the present Bill, which was also brought before the House by the Great Northern Railway of Ireland, was rejected by the Committee. Personally he was in no way financially interested in these railway undertakings, but he was interested as a matter of public convenience, because he looked at the advantages which would accrue from the adoption of a Bill which would enable a competitive route to be opened up. He was of opinion that that competitive line would be very useful to the district. Twenty-five witnesses who were called before the Committee to give evidence in support of the Kingscourt scheme, almost all of whom, having business connections with the district, were unanimous upon the matter. Those gentlemen were farmers, merchants, manufacturers, and others who knew the real requirements of the people and the locality, and they were unanimously in favour of an independent and competitive line. He opposed this Bill because it would create a monopoly which would cause the greatest possible inconvenience to the people of the localities concerned. It would, in fact, be a breach of faith to the people, a flagrant breach of faith with Parliament, and might be described as a gross breach of faith on the part of some of the Kingscourt directors with their colleagues. In his opinion the passing of this Bill would mean defeating of the legitimate expectations of the people of Armagh, Cavan, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Meath, and the adjacent counties. The Bill asked the permission of Parliament for an arrangement that would, as he had before said, constitute a breach of faith with the House itself. The Committee last year recognised the advantages attached to an alternative and competitive route between Dublin and the North—advantages which were insisted upon by a large number of influential witnesses who described the crippling effects upon agriculture and manufactures, of the excessive rates at present charged by the Great Northern

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Railway Company, and Parliament having sanctioned the alternative route and rejected the Great Northern Company's blocking scheme he was surprised that the House should now be asked to deliberately reverse its decision by what he could only describe as a trick on the part of some of the directors of the company. So confident were the Midland and Great Western Railway Company in the success of an independent loop line that they expressed their intention of investing large sums of money in the concern, and the Committee sanctioned the Bill because they were induced to believe in the *bona fides* of the venture. But shortly after the passage of the Bill of last year arrangements were made by three of the Kingscourt directors, without the knowledge of the Chairman of the Board, practically to hand the line over to the Great Northern Company, and if the scheme were allowed to pass the monopoly of that company in the part of Ireland concerned would be established and confirmed. He moved that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

*MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.), in seconding the motion, said that every public board and every man, whether Nationalist or Conservative, in the north-west portion of Ireland affected by this scheme was against the Bill. The proposal was really in direct contravention of an agreement between the promoters of the Kingscourt Bill and a Committee of the House. The Great Northern Railway had a splendid service between Dublin and Belfast, but it starved other districts. If the present Bill was allowed to pass it would prevent the inhabitants of the district affected having any competing line with the Great Northern Railway, which had a greater monopoly than any line in the country.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. DE TATTON EGERTON (Cheshire, Knutsford) thought it his duty, as Chairman of the Committee which passed the Kingscourt Bill last year, to point out that the line was originally intended to be an alternative route between Dublin and Belfast, passing through a district which would help to feed the line independently of any traffic from the two ends. The present Bill proposed to do away entirely with the work of that Committee, as it would throw back the whole country into the hands of the Great Northern Company. In view of the necessity for an alternative through route opening up a completely new district, and one which would be beneficial to the public at large, the Committee accepted the evidence placed before them as to the *bona fides* of the promoters, and passed the Bill. As he understood, the promoters of the present measure had gone behind the back of the Chairman of the Board, and were endeavouring to undo the work of last year. With this statement he would leave the matter in the hands of the House to settle.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said there could be no question that the original scheme was a great deal better in the interests of Ireland than the proposal now before the House. He, however, had received resolutions from the County Council of Louth, the Dundalk Urban District Council, the Dundalk Rural District Council, the Dundalk Board of Guardians, and the Dundalk Harbour Commissioners—all in his constituency—asking him to support the Bill, and in deference to the wishes of his constituents he should reluctantly do so. The hon. Member for Mid Armagh had issued a statement that the Midland and Great Western Railway Company of Ireland were prepared, if the present Bill were defeated, to enter into an agreement by which the Kingscourt Railway, as authorised by the Act of 1900, would probably be constructed, and its competitive character restored and established. The House should remember, however, that during the last forty or fifty years not a single extension of line had been carried out in Ireland except by an existing railway company or by help from the British Government in the shape of a public guarantee. If this Bill was rejected no part of the line would be made.

He therefore suggested that the Bill should be sent to a Committee; the statement with regard to the Midland Company could then be inquired into, the people concerned cross-examined, and their guarantees to construct the line taken. A clause could also be inserted in the Bill suspending its operation for one or two years, in order to give the Midland Company a chance to carry out the original scheme.

The SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) admitted there was a great amount of difference of opinion on matters of detail as to what had been and might be done, but to discuss those matters on the Second Reading of the Bill was almost absurd. Members had been reminded that there were a large number of questions at issue between the Great Northern and Midland Companies, but was the House of Commons a fit tribunal to sit upon those questions? The proper course was to send the Bill to a Committee upstairs. The prevailing opinion in Belfast was that the Bill should be so dealt with, for this reason. They had the promise of the Midland Railway Company that the railway would be made by them in its entirety, and if the Bill went to a Committee the value of that promise could be tested. He, therefore, suggested that the ordinary course should be followed, so that the Bill could be discussed before a *quasi-judicial* tribunal.

Mr. CARVILL (Newry) urged that the promoters of the scheme had never given the public a chance to find the necessary capital. The ink was hardly dry on the Act of Parliament before these gentlemen were negotiating with the Great Northern Railway Company. It was unreasonable that matters should be allowed to remain as they were for another year by the Bill being sent to a Committee. Such a step would be giving approval to a course of conduct of which it was the business of the House to mark its disapproval. The real question was whether there had been a breach of faith with a Parliamentary Committee as well as with the public. The charge against the promoters was that by certain designs and representations they induced the people to believe that if they supported the Bill a measure would be granted by which an alternative route would be provided between Armagh and Dublin. His constituents were deceived as well. They requested him to give evidence, but, as he said before, throughout the whole length and breadth of Ireland not a single local body could be found to recommend the scheme to the House of Commons. He submitted, with all respect, that he had established that these gentlemen had humbugged a Committee of the House of Commons, and it was the bounden duty of the House to mark its disapproval of such conduct. He wished to press on the attention of the House what was stated by Mr. Balfour Browne, who opened the case last year before the Committee for the promoters. He said—

"Now I propose, with your permission, to tell you something about the Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway. I appear with my learned friends, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Bushe, and Mr. Rowlands, for the promoters, and the Bill is for power to incorporate a company to construct a railway from Kingscourt, through Carrickmacross, through Castleblaney, and through Keady, to join the Great Northern Railway at Armagh. I believe the total length of the railway is about thirty-six miles. It has one very important feature that will be obvious to you on the cartoon—it connects the system of the Great Northern of Ireland with the system of the Midland Great Western of Ireland, the Great Northern lines on that cartoon being indicated by green, the Midland Great Western being indicated in blue. It will make a new route between the North of Ireland and Dublin, and that is one of the most important features of the scheme, and I believe that you will have tables of distances put before you that it will be a route taking Armagh as a common point, five miles shorter between Armagh and Dublin, than by the present existing Great Northern route *via* Newry and Dundalk. That of itself is a very important matter, and it is a matter which was entirely overlooked, I think, by the Committee which sat upon this Bill, and determined the preamble was not proved last year."

Later on in his statement Mr. Balfour Browne said—

"A railway company has no vested right in its traffic. It is there providing a road for the public to use, and if the public wants two roads the public ought to have them, unless there are some countervailing disadvantages which would make you respect it. Here, Sir, there is not a word to be said against our line from beginning to end except by the Great Northern Railway. There is not a landowner opposing. Every one of the local authorities—every one of the county councils—every body in the district, has petitioned or passed resolutions or is in support of our line, and there is no one here to say that this line should not be made except a company that is dividing 6¾ per cent.—I do not complain of that—but a rich company that wants to maintain its monopoly in the north-east of Ireland. Sir, I do not think that is a ground for rejecting a Bill. I hope it will not be made a ground in this case. Is it necessary that this line should be made?"

The hon. Member wished the House to understand that the necessity for this line was recognised so long ago as 1837, but matters progressed so slowly in Ireland, especially in industrial development, that here sixty-four years afterwards they were discussing whether the line was to be made at all. Mr. Balfour Browne referred to the fact that in 1837 a Royal Commission on Irish railways recommended that a railway running up from Navan to Armagh should be made, and the learned counsel continued—

> "That is a long time ago, but ever since the people in this district have been urging the Great Northern or somebody to make a line; and in the year 1894 the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland promoted a line running over practically one route from Kingscourt, where they are just now to join the Great Northern at Armagh. The Midland Great Western thought it was necessary. I have an opportunity, from the circular they sent to their shareholders, of giving you the opinion of the directors of that railway company as to the utility of this line. What happened? When that line was promoted the Great Northern, in order to maintain its monopoly, went and canvassed the shareholders of the rival railway company—of the Midland Company—canvassed them to vote against this line; and so many did vote against the line that the Midland Railway Company did not get the requisite majority—they got a majority, but they did not get the requisite majority, so they had to withdraw that line which they themselves said was necessary in the interests of the public."

He would not trouble the House with any further quotations from the speech of the counsel for the promoters. He should like, however, to quote a few words from the evidence of the promoters themselves. Mr. Worthington, who was the principal promoter of this railway, was examined by Mr. Balfour Browne as follows—

> "It was said last year that it was your intention to sell the railway if Parliament gave you the power to construct it? There was not the slightest ground for such a statement. We had no intention whatever, and I believe it was said after we had called our evidence, when we had no opportunity of contradicting it, but you want to emphatically contradict it now?—Yes.
>
> "Your object as one of the promoters is to have this railway made?—Yes.
>
> "With your experience of Irish railways—I will not go over the evidence we have had—do you think, first of all, that the district requires a railway?—Clearly it does.
>
> "Do you think also that a through rate from Armagh to Dublin will be an advantage to both those great centres?—Undoubtedly.
>
> "Knowing Ireland well, do you think the district is so good as many others in which railways have been made?—It is a great deal better than many districts in which I have made railways.
>
> "Besides that, will it develop traffic that does not exist at the present time?—It will no doubt."

[Cries of "Divide."] He had a great deal more evidence he should like to have the opportunity of reading, but in deference to the wish of the House he would not pursue that course. His apology for troubling the House with these quotations—it was rather curious to have to offer an apology—was that this was a matter that concerned his constituency and the constituency of his hon. friend the Member for Mid Armagh, which almost adjoined each other. They knew the interest the public took in having a competitive and alternative route. Up to the 9th of April the rates on the Great Northern Railway were excessively and prohibitively high, but from a paper he had received from his constituency it appeared that within the last ten days the company had taken a step of the most extraordinary character, which he thought gave an insight into their style of management. There was in the town of Newry an important grass-seed industry. A large warehouse was established there, where seed was prepared for the market. It was not thriving, but it was not quite defunct. He believed that the last regulation of the Great Northern Railway Company was quite likely to destroy it. The rate for grass-seed from Belfast to Dublin was 8s. per ton, and from Newry, which was little more than half the way—he thought the distance was 70 miles against 112—the rate was 9s. 2d. per ton. The rate for potatoes was now raised from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

*Mr. SPEAKER said these matters were not relevant to the question before the House.

Mr. CARVILL said he quite accepted the ruling. He concluded by reading a letter he had received from a Member of the Committee that sat upstairs on the Bill supporting the views he had put before the House.

Colonel SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said he understood that his hon. friend the Member for Newry opposed the Bill, though he thought his speech would more incline one to believe that the best way to get out of the tangle would be to send the Bill upstairs to a Committee. The right hon. and gallant Member had signed a whip in opposition to this Bill, because he was not impressed when he signed that whip that the Midland Railway were ready to plank down the money in order that this railway should be made. He was in favour of the railway being made at all hazards, because he thought it would be of advantage to a considerable part of Ireland. He should be very glad at the same time to see the competitive element brought into the railway scheme. But if the railway was not to be made, and the Midland Railway Company did not mean to plank down the money and defeat the object of the Great Northern, then he thought the best thing they could do was to send the Bill to a Committee upstairs. He ventured to say that next year, if the Committee found that either company had been acting unfairly and had no intention of carrying out a railway which would be beneficial to the country, the House would carry some scheme which would have the effect of giving to that part of Ireland the railway accommodation it required. Personally he hoped that the result of the deliberations of the Committee would be that the railway, when made, would be made on the competitive principle.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): I do not rise in order to express my opinion on the merits of the Bill, for that, indeed, is not the question before the House. The question is whether we shall or shall not this afternoon depart from the usual practice of sending such measures up to a Committee. That question has been very keenly argued. A somewhat strong case has been made out by the Member for Mid Armagh, who was reinforced by the Member for the Knutsford Division. On the face of it, and on the argument they put forward, it looks as if there has been a breach of faith on the part of the promoters, and that they secured the assent of the Committee to their scheme on promises which have since been broken. If that argument stood alone, and if we were able to accept that argument altogether, then I think a case would have been made out for taking the unusual course of rejecting the Bill on the Second Reading; but after listening to two or three speeches I should hesitate to pronounce definitely upon an intricate case of that kind, and should like to hear witnesses examined before I would dare to say that the promoters are not acting in good faith. It would be a serious matter if this House were to reject the Bill on the Second Reading after listening to two or three speeches without offering the promoters an opportunity of showing that they are acting in good faith. The only other argument to which I shall refer is this. A suggestion has been made that the Midland Company gave some encouragement to the promoters of the Bill of last year, and that they are not making good that encouragement. If this through line cannot be made without the assistance of the Midland Company, and the Midland Company have given no sufficient evidence of the fact that they intend to give that assistance—what a difficult question that is to resolve in this House! Surely that is a question on which we should need to hear evidence and assure ourselves whether the Midland Company do or do not mean to assist in making the through route. But when we have to decide upon the relative probability of each, and upon the value of one by comparison with another, then I must say for my part I could not come to a decision without the assistance usually given by a Committee upstairs.

*Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he took great interest in the railway affairs of Ireland. He remembered reading long ago that one of the most eminent railway experts said: "If the State does not govern the railways, the railways will soon govern the State." It appeared to him that they had arrived at that stage. They had the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Secretary to the Admiralty, the ex Chief Secretary, and present President of the Board of Trade making the suggestion that what was determined by the House of Commons last session should be thrown altogether overboard, and that they should give the Great Northern Company an opportunity to so manipulate affairs that they would be able to gain the end they had in view. Where were they now? They had the Government and several interested Members on one side, and they had public utility and the Members representing the district on the other. He had some experience of what railway monopoly in Ireland meant. Practically the carrying companies claimed to detain stock as long as they liked, and to deliver it in what condition they chose. He gave the Chief Secretary credit for doing the best he could, but he had as much knowledge of this subject as any Member on the Ministerial Bench. He was for nearly six months on the Select Committee appointed to inquire into railway and canal rates and charges, and as the result of his experience he came to the conclusion that the object of railway managers and railway witnesses was to befog the Committee. The end of it was to make confusion worse confounded. There were in Ireland at present four or five railway companies, and they were absolutely kings and lords of the districts in which the lines ran. They had and exercised the power of assessing the residents' through rates and charges, and of unduly favouring certain centres at the expense of other districts. Except on the great main arteries between Dublin and Belfast, the autocrats of the Great Northern treated the public in whatever way they thought proper. He trusted the Government would not actively interfere in this matter. If they sent this Bill to a Committee of the House, and if it came back recommended by the Committee, hon. Members would argue that they could not go against the recommendation of the Committee. The scheme of last year was the proper one to adopt. The House was getting almost tired of railway Bills, and the railway managers ought to be a little more considerate in taking up the time of this House. A Grand Committee should take up this question, and lay down definite principles, in order to prevent the time of the House being wasted by private railway Bills of this character. The great element of an alternative way, which would make this railway useful as a competing route from Dublin with the Great Northern Railway, had been absolutely left out of this Bill. He believed that the common sense and the commercial instincts of hon. Members of this House would defeat this Bill. They should not allow it to be read a second time, because the element of public utility, which ought to be the basis of all legislation, was absent. He trusted therefore that the House would reject the Bill, as the entire management of the Irish railway system called for immediate and drastic changes.

Sir JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.) said the chief question before the House was whether there had been a breach of faith with the Committee of the House. They had to ask themselves whether a reasonable *prima facie* case had been made out in favour of this Bill going to a Committee. They were now in a position to investigate the statements which had been made *pro* and *con*, and the question was whether it was not the duty of this House, after having heard conflicting statements, to send this Bill to a Committee of the House, which, presumably, would take evidence without bias, and would report to this House the result. It was more than clear that among five members of the Kingscourt Railway board there was some conflict of opinion, and if there was a difference of opinion between those five members, surely that was not a question which this House could arrange, and it was a matter that should be brought forward fairly and squarely before a Committee of the House. It had been suggested that there would be a breach of faith if this Bill was adopted, but one of the clauses in the Bill passed last year actually opened the door for this Bill. There were certain running powers in connection with the Midland Railway. Sub-section 7 of Clause 51 says—

> "Provided that the running powers over the railway of the Midland Company granted by this section shall cease in the event of the undertaking being sold or of the railways being worked by the Great Northern Railway."

That was the very thing that was being done or contemplated by the Act which the House were now asked to send to the Committee. Surely if there were any means of interpreting plain language it was clear that, inferentially, such a scheme was contemplated. Evidence was taken upon that point, and the result was that this clause was added to the Bill. They had been told that this railway could not be made without a subsidy, and up to the present, so far as they knew, not one solitary farthing of capital had been planked down. They had had a great many hazy statements brought before them, and a great many had also been reported in the press. A Bill was now brought forward to make a railway through a paying part of the line where the manufacturing districts in Ireland required it. Tho representatives of every leading manufacture in the districts between Armagh and Keady were unanimous in favour of this Bill. [Cries of "No, no."] Yes they were, for he had gone into the matter with them. He thought this difference of opinion showed the necessity for having this Bill referred to a Committee. The argument in favour of referring this Bill to a Committee was irresistible. When the Midland Railway were approached by the other company they declined to carry out their verbal agreement, and now the line was being auctioned between two companies, and bandied about as in a game of battledore and shuttlecock. They would rather not have any Bill at all than not have the whole Bill. He thought it might be very fairly claimed that, under the circumstances, this Bill should be sent to a Committee where witnesses could be examined on oath. He earnestly asked the House to pass the Second Reading of this Bill, and let the measure go to a Committee in order to sift the evidence and find out what were the real wants and necessities of the district.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) said that out of the thirty-six miles of railway dealt with by this Bill twenty miles passed through his constituency. He desired to point out to the House that there was not a public body in all Monaghan, from the county council downwards, which was not opposed to this Bill, and in favour of the Bill passed last year. The Bill before the House prevented Dublin having the benefit of any competition, and gave a monopoly to Belfast. He was very sorry that the Member for one of the divisions of Belfast, who was a member of the Government, had interfered in this matter. If this Bill was passed it would prevent for all time the establishment of a competitive line of railway with the Great Northern line, which was so much needed in Ireland. Was the House of Commons going to be a party to allowing two railway companies to divide Ireland between themselves, in order that those monopolies might extract all the money they could out of the unfortunate traders who were obliged to send their goods along those railways? In Ireland they were quite differently situated to England and Scotland, because in those countries the people were able to consume nearly all their own produce. In Ireland, however, most of the produce had to be sent to England and Scotland for consumption, and the Great Northern Railway Company were practically squeezing the life-blood out of the people of the constituency which he represented by charging such high rates. It cost them more at the present time to send one hundredweight of oats to Dublin than to Liverpool. By the line sanctioned last year the people living in the north-east portion of Ireland would be provided with a competitive line, by which they could send their goods to the capital of Ireland and to Belfast. If the Bill before the House was passed, who was going to fight it upstairs? If it was sent upstairs the whole energy of the Northern Railway Company would be used in favour of the Bill, and he hoped that it would be rejected at the present stage.

*COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) said that as a Member of the Committee which adopted the Bill of last year, he wished to place before the House his recollection of what took place before the Committee. They inquired very carefully into the needs of the district, and they found that for the general benefit of that district it was necessary that there should be a competing line. They came clearly to the conclusion that the rates charged by the Great Northern Railway were high, and that if it was allowed to have a monopoly it would be detrimental to that district. They were very careful to ascertain that it was the intention of the company not to sell it to the Great Northern Railway for a certain number of years. It was on the understanding that the line would not be sold to the Great

Northern Railway that the preamble of the Bill was passed. If Parliament were now to go back upon the decision arrived at last year he believed that they would be doing great harm to the district concerned.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said he wished to corroborate most emphatically what had been said by the hon. and gallant Member for Taunton, and also what had been stated by other hon. Members, that if this Bill was passed there would never be any competitive route established at all. He entirely endorsed what had been said by his colleagues on the Committee in regard to this Bill.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I should like to say a word upon this question with reference to the attitude which the House is bound to assume towards its own Committee, and the carrying out of an honourable understanding and pledge given to that Committee. The Chief Secretary for Ireland has stated that there was a conflict of evidence as to the transactions which took place at the Committee, which ought to be examined by a fresh Committee. After hearing the evidence of hon. Members who have spoken, of the Chairman of the Committee, and also the letter from another member of the Committee, I venture to say that such a reason as that given by the Chief Secretary for Ireland falls to the ground. We have heard the evidence of four of the members of the Committee which passed the Bill of last year, to the effect that there was a distinct and honourable understanding given with reference to future action in respect of this railway, and if the House now allows a wealthy railway company to endeavour to upset the bargain made in the Committee upstairs it will strike a fatal blow at the carrying on of private Bill business in an honourable manner. I think the reasons given by hon. Members from Ireland with reference to the needs of the district and the necessity for a competitive line in that district have not been answered, and are unanswerable. But apart altogether from this, I say that this House ought to uphold the decisions and bargains entered into by its Committees, and I shall certainly vote against the Second Reading of this Bill.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) said that there was no doubt whatever that the present Bill would destroy the arrangement made by the Bill of last year, but the right hon. Gentleman must have forgotten that there was serious danger that if the Bill before the House were not allowed to go to a Committee, not necessarily to be passed, the result would be that neither the scheme of the Bill nor the scheme of last year had any chance of being carried out. There was considerable evidence to show that there was an understanding on the part of the promoters, rightly or wrongly, last year, that they would be assisted in the construction of the railway by the Midland Company, and if there was any such understanding—he did not wish to express a definite opinion regarding it—the Midland Company had now withdrawn from it, with the consequence that there was no prospect of raising capital for the construction of the line. That brought a new chapter into the matter, and it appeared to him that the House would be well advised to allow the Bill to go to a Committee in the usual way. The Committee could examine as to whether there was anything which deserved the title of a breach of faith, and if there were, the course that would be adopted was clear enough. But if there was not a breach of faith, and it was thought desirable that the question should be considered afresh, then it would be possible for the Midland Company to come forward and make a definite offer as to what they were prepared to do. [Sir H. FOWLER: Who is to pay the costs?] There was something besides costs to be considered, and that was the public interest. Having listened most carefully and in an impartial spirit to the discussion, he did not think that it would be to the public interest that the House should decide the question itself.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.) said he would have preferred to give a silent vote on the question but for some of the observations made in the course of the debate. His hon. friend had stated that there had been certain corrupt influences at work to promote the Bill, but as far as he was concerned he wished it to be distinctly understood that he had not been approached by anyone in favour of the Bill. On the other hand, he had been very strongly urged to oppose the Bill. It had been stated that local opinion was opposed to the Bill, but he held in his hand a resolution passed by the county council of Louth in favour of it. With regard to the statement of his hon. friend the Member for Newry that Dundalk had been subsidised by the Great Northern Company, he wished to say publicly that he knew two of the gentlemen concerned, one of whom was a friend of thirty years standing, and that there were not two more honourable or upright men in Europe. He had nothing to say with reference to the merits of the Bill, but he thought there was a great deal of force in the argument of the hon. Member for North Louth, with whom he did not always agree, that the Bill should be sent to a Committee and that the Midland Company or others who desired to have the Kingscourt and Armagh Railway constructed in accordance with last year's Bill should be given an opportunity of submitting their proposals.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 114; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 129.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Baird,John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bathurst,Hon.Allen Benjamin
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Gl'sg'w
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cranborne, Viscount
Denny, Col.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Doxford,Sir William Theodore
Elliot,Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Garfit, William
Gibbs,HnAGH.(CityofLondon
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, James (Staffords,N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie(Hampst'd)
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh
Howard, J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, RtHnJW(CumPenr.
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Calmont,Col.HLB (Cambs.
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriessh.)
Milward, Colonel Victor
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Sir Joseph W.(Durham
Percy, Earl
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ropner, Col. Robert
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler,Col.Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Wharton, Rt. Hn. J. Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u-Lyne
Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H.(Yorks
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Young, Commander (Berks,E.
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir James Haslett and Mr. William Johnston.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Ambrose, Robert
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,RtHn.HerbertHenry
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Boland, John
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles,T.Gibson(King's Lynn

Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill,Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston,Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crombie, John William
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hammond, John
Hardie,J Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt. Hon.Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Holland, William Henry
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Law, Andrew Bonar
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowther,Rt.Hn. James (Kent)
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, Charles(Liverpool)
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jas. (Shropshire)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley,Rt.HnJohn (Montrose
Morton,ArthurHA.(Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan,Col JohnP.(Galway,N.
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel,HnWm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley,Hon.M.W.(St'lybridge
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, J. H. (Denbighshire)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh
Seely,Charles Hilton(Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tynesi'e
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(N'rth'nts
Spencer, E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred (Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Vincent,Col.SirCEH(Sheffield
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE.(Taunton
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lonsdale and Mr. Morris.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with viz. :—

Great Central Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—

London United Tramways.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

GRAVESEND GAS BILL.
NEATH HARBOUR BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered ; A Clause added ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

London and India Docks (New Works) Bill.

Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Arlesey Gas Bill [Lords].

Folkestone Corporation Bill [Lords].

Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords] (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Berwickshire County Town Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of

Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with viz. :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. I) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

DORKING GAS BILL.

Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY).

Petition, and Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cohen and Mr. John Burns.

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDERS.

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under The Military Lands Act, 1892, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Brodrick and Lord Stanley.

MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDERS BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under the Military Lands Act, 1892," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 143.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Billericay (Rural), Drighlington, Heston, and Isleworth Sunderland, and York, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Billericay (Rural), Drighlington, Heston and Isleworth, Sunderland, and York," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 144.]

ILKESTON AND HEANOR WATER BOARD BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Petition, from Rochdale, against re-enactment; to lie upon the Table.

BEER BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Chichester; Nacton; Bentley; Levington; Southampton; Bucklesham; Fulkenham; Thorington; and Staffordshire; to lie upon the Table.

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition, from Bothwell, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

BURIAL GROUNDS (LOANS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Bothwell; and Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition, from Hornsey, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Bickershaw; Bamfurlong; Digby; New London; Sutton; New Summit; Bentinck; Plumtree; Eastwood; Silver Hil (Nos. 1 and 2); Butcherwood; Annesley; New Hucknall; Dunston; St. John's; Staveley; Renishaw Park; Parkhall; Hartington; Norwood; Muirkirk; Talk o' th' Hill; Sandford; Hill; Hanley (No. 3); Bulwell; Pendleton; Cinder Hill; Broxtowe; Hartshead; Heage; Topcliffe; East Ardsley; Robin Hood; Thornhill; Old Roundwood; Shaw Cross; Bruntcliffe; Mirfield; Whitwick (No. 6); Whitwick (Nos. 1 and 2); Coleorton; Snibstone (No. 2); South Leicestershire (No. 1) South Leicestershire (No. 2); Ibstock (No. 1); Ibstock (No. 2); Nailstonewood; Ellistown (No. 1); Little Hulton; Marlpool; Pentrich; Codnor; Ripley; Stanley; Ilkeston; Marchay; Turton

Moor; Micklefield; Halton; Amington; Tame Valley; Hockley Hall; Birch Coppice: Alvecote; South Kirkby; Featherstone; Kippax; Glasshoughton; Ackton Hall; and Allerton Silkstone Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (YOUNG CHILDREN) (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition, from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions, for alteration of Law; from Stockton-on-Tees; and Brighouse; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Sheerness; Chesterfield; Godstone; Workington; Wilmslow; and Birmingham; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition, from St. Mabe, against; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Digby; New London; Sutton; New Summit; Burntcliffe; Bentinck; Plumtree; Silver Hill (Nos. 1 and 2); Butcherwood; New Hucknall; Annesley; Bamfurlong; Hindley Green; Muirkirk; Parkhall; Renishaw Park; St. John's; Staveley; Dunston; Norwood; Talk o' th' Hill; Sandford Hill; Hanley No. (3); Pendleton; Broxtowe; Cinder Hill; Bulwell; Hartshead; Topcliffe; East Ardsley; Robin Hood; Thornhill; Old Roundwood; Shaw Cross; Mirfield; Dillwyn; Gwendraeth; Crosshands; Cawdor; Gellicendrim; Ammanford (No. 1); Emlyn; Brynhenllyn; Rhos; Isllwyn; Eastwood; Ibstock (No. 1); Ibstock (No. 2); South Leicestershire (No. 1); South Leicestershire (No. 2); Snibston (No. 2); Coleorton; Nailstonewood; Ellistown (No. 1); Ellistown (No. 2); Whitwick (No. 6); Whitwick (Nos. 2 and 5); Pentrich; Ripley; Stanley; Ilkeston; Little Hulton; Turton Moor; Halton; Micklefield; Whateley; Kingsbury; Alvecote; Birch Coppice; Amington; South Kirby; Featherstone; Glasshoughton; Skelmersdale; Marchay; Marlpool; Ackton Hall; Kippax; and Allerton Silkstone Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition, from Samuel Crossland and others, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Sheffield (six); Helensburgh; Coupar Angus; Abram; Cardiff (seven); United Free Church of Scotland; Highgate; Catrine; Coatbridge; Meersbrook Park; Birmingham: Nottingham; Lochs; Stamford Hill; Midsomer Norton; Llantrissant (four); Morley (two); Middlesbrough; (three) Landovery (four); Crompton; Blackburn; Leeds; Launceston; Great Grimsby (four); Great Coates; Glossop; Midsomer Norton; Brixton; Calderhead; New Monkland; Waltham; Thomer; Cleethorpes (two); Denaby Main (two); Taunton (three); Stainland; and Aberdeen; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions, in favour, from Straiton; Bonhill; Coupar Angus; Clunie; Bendochy; Kinnaird; Coldstream; Old Monkland; Dailly; Colmonell; Slamannan; Cadder; Muiravonside; Kirkmichael; Prestonkirk; Unst; Prestonpans; Nairn (two); Blairgowrie (two); Sleat; Westray; Stronsay (two); Lerwick; Tingwall; Edina; Barry; Barvas; Ladybank; Newport; Fraserburgh; Queensferry; Dumbarton; Cumnock; Dunipace; Old Cumnock; Urquhart; Maryculter; Aberlour; Cambuslang; Marykirk; Johnstone; Bothwell; and, Port Glasgow; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petitions, against, from Hampstead; and St. John's Wood; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).

Return [presented 18th April] to be printed. [No. 129.]

GREEK LOAN OF 1898.

Account presented, up to 31st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 130.]

EGYPTIAN GUARANTEED LOAN OF 1885.

Account presented, up to 31st March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CROWN'S NOMINEE ACCOUNT.

Abstract account presented, of Receipts and Payments of the Treasury Solicitor, in the year ended 31st December, 1900, in the Administration of Estates on behalf of the Crown, and Alphabetical List of Intestates' Estates in respect of which Letters of Administration were granted to the Treasury Solicitor as Crown's Nominee, and of other cases (partial Intestacies, &c.) in which accounts were opened in the Books of the Treasury Solicitor in the same year in respect of moneys received by him as Crown's Nominee [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 131.]

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158A]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

POLLING DISTRICTS (CITY OF WAKEFIELD).

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the City of Wakefield, altering certain Polling Districts in the City [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 19th April, 1901, amending the terms of Article 89 (b) of the Code of 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Charitable Endowments (London).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 132.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—FINANCE OF THE WAR.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will lay upon the Table a Return giving the total estimated cost of the South African War, and showing the way in which the cost has been, or is to be, met from additional taxation; from the application of realised surplus on ordinary expenditure and suspension of Sinking Fund; and by loan, Exchequer issues, or in other ways.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Yes, Sir.

SURRENDERS AT LINDLEY, ETC.—ARMY ORDER, 11TH APRIL.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Special Army Order, issued on 11th April, announcing that any officer or soldier who, when in the presence of the enemy, displays a white flag or other token of surrender, will be tried by general court-martial, is retrospective and applies to the cases of the surrenders at Nicholson's Nek, Reddersburg, Koorn Spruit, and Lindley; and whether he will now give the names of the irresponsible persons who raised the white flag at Lindley, or state his reasons for withholding their names.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg at the same time to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state to what regiment or command did the person belong who raised the white flag at Lindley; and, if it is alleged that he was one of any Irish company, will a court-martial or inquiry be ordered.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford):

The order will not be retrospective, though in certain cases of surrender inquiries or courts-martial have been ordered. In reply to the second paragraph and to a similar question put by the hon. Member for North Louth, the persons responsible for raising the white flag at Lindley were Lieutenant Robins and Corporal Jacques, of the 47th Company Imperial Yeomanry, Duke of Cambridge's Own. Lieutenant Robins was severely wounded and could not attend the court of inquiry. Lord Roberts is making a further inquiry respecting his case. Corporal Jacques had been invalided and discharged before the inquiry was held.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Neither of these gentlemen, I am happy to say, is Irish.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I do not think the right hon. Gentleman said whether the names of the persons responsible at Nicholson's Nek and Reddersburg would be given too.

Mr. BRODRICK: No; Nicholson's Nek took place in November or October, 1899, and is too far back.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: You do not know them, I suppose?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

LORD METHUEN'S ILLNESS.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what was the ailment from which Lord Methuen was suffering which rendered it necessary for him to go to hospital, from which, according to the list of British casualties published on 11th April, he was discharged on 7th April; how long was Lord Methuen in hospital; by whom were the duties of his command discharged in his absence; when did the news of Lord Methuen's illness reach the War Office; and what explanation, if any, is there that the fact of his illness was not communicated to the public.

Mr. BRODRICK: The only notification as to Lord Methuen's illness which has reached the War Office was the notice that he was discharged to duty on 7th April, and this was duly published. It has not been thought necessary to inform the War Office when generals in South Africa go on the sick list, unless the illness is serious.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: How did the Government get the information that General De Wet was mad?

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of allowing Lord Methuen to come home for a rest?

Mr. BRODRICK: Lord Methuen has recently carried out a variety of operations to the entire satisfaction of Lord Kitchener and the Government.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: What about Magersfontein?

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any objection to state the exact terms of the verbal message received by General Louis Botha from Lord Kitchener, which is referred to in a published letter of General Botha dated 13th February 1901.

Mr. BRODRICK: We do not know the terms of the verbal message alluded to; but we assume it was only a statement by Lord Kitchener that if General Botha desired to meet him he was ready to arrange a meeting.

GENERAL COLVILE'S CASE—PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. BRODRICK AND MR. DOUGLAS.

Mr. BRODRICK: I have to ask the House to allow me to make a personal explanation in reference to a statement which has appeared in the public press in regard to a reply I gave to the hon. Member for North-West Lanark. The hon. Member, speaking in Scotland, alluded to an answer I had made in the House of Commons to a question from himself, and in commenting upon it said my statement was false, and that it was a very serious matter for a Member of the House of Commons to find that a truthful answer was not given to a plain question by a

Minister. The question put to me was† whether I would publish a particular report sent by General Colvile to the Commander-in-Chief respecting the battle of Paardeberg. I replied to that that reports were furnished by officers commanding divisions only to the senior officer present, and did not accompany his despatch to the Commander-in-Chief. I said in consequence General Colvile's despatch or report was sent to General Kelly-Kenny, who was in immediate command, and was not sent to Lord Roberts. Search had been made in Lord Roberts's papers and the report could not at the moment be traced. Since the hon. Member used the expressions in Scotland to which I have referred I asked Lord Roberts to make further search among his papers, and this morning the report was found in a box among a good many other papers of a similar kind, where they had been placed after an abstract of the recommendations in them had been made for the Commander-in-Chief's use. I need hardly say how much I regret to have been the channel of giving any inaccurate information to the House, but the House will realise that, amid so many hundreds and thousands of papers passing officially at a period of active service and removed on many occasions, it is not always possible to find a particular paper of that kind at the moment when it may be required. Although it is not the rule to lay papers of this description on the Table, I have not the slightest objection, as it is asked for, to lay this paper on the Table. But I ought to add, to avoid any misapprehension, that the report in question has reference to the battle of Paardeberg, and not in any way to incidents in the subsequent career of General Colvile which formed the subject of debate a few nights ago.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.): After the statement the right hon. Gentleman has made, perhaps the House will bear with me for a few minutes while I make a personal explanation. I think it is evident from the tone of the right hon. Gentleman in his remarks that he has somewhat misunderstood what I said. He seemed to have supposed that some observations of mine were a reflection on his private character. My observations were only intended to apply to the answers themselves and their substance. I exceedingly regret that, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will allow me to say that no such intention or thought was in my mind, and such an intention I wish to disclaim as publicly as I made the statement in question. But perhaps the House will consider with me that the state of matters appeared somewhat anomalous and serious. A question was asked whether a despatch had been addressed to Lord Roberts or not, and it was said in reply it had not been so addressed. In the course of the debate on General Colvile's case I communicated to the right hon. Gentleman across the floor of the House that the despatch was in existence, that it had been addressed to Lord Roberts, and I offered the right hon. Gentleman a copy of it. Three days afterwards the hon. Member for the Stroud Division asked the right hon. Gentleman whether that was the case or not, and the statement was contradicted without any reference to what had passed during the debate. I thought this a matter of so much importance that, being questioned in my constituency, I could not allow it to rest where it was. I exceedingly regret that I should have been betrayed into any statement that could be supposed to be a reflection on the personal honour of the right hon. Gentleman, and hope he will regard the explanation I have made as satisfactory as the statement he has made is to me.

CHINESE LABOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. HAVILAND-BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the resolution passed by the Buluwayo Chamber of Mines affirming the principle of the introduction of Chinese labour, but under Government restrictions with regard to the return of the labourers to China; and whether His Majesty's Government will exert its influence to prevent the introduction of Chinese cheap labour into any part of His Majesty's dominions.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): I have seen a statement to this effect in the newspapers. I am not prepared to give any pledge, as Chinese labour is already employed in several of His Majesty's colonies.

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† See preceding volume, page 60.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a very heavy poll tax has been placed upon Chinese labourers in many of our colonies, and will the right hon. Gentleman countenance such a tax in Rhodesia?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, I am not aware of that.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is not a high sum demanded for every Chinaman landed in New South Wales?

*Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the question.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I will give notice of the question.

REPORTED SHOOTING BY THE BOERS OF MR. WESSEL, PEACE ENVOY.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Mr. Andries Wessel, who is described as a peace envoy, and who was reported to have been shot at Klipfontein in January last by order of General De Wet, was an accredited agent from Lord Kitchener, or any other British general, to General De Wet, or any other Boer general; whether he is aware that it is now reported from Craddock that Mr. Wessel is alive; and can he inform the House what are the true facts; and whether, if the former report be false, any steps will be taken to trace its source, and to prevent similar falsehoods being telegraphed to this country.

Mr. BRODRICK: I have no information of this matter beyond that Mr. Wessel was reported to have been shot. I will, however, make inquiries.

DISPOSAL OF CAPTURED CATTLE.

Mr. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the military authorities in South Africa have decided to slaughter for food all captured cattle, and whether, if such action is or has been taken, consideration has been given to the importance of keeping a stock of acclimatised cattle in that country, and the cost and loss that would be entailed by restocking with cattle not acclimatised to the country.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The local authorities are alive to the importance of the question, and Government stock farms have been established.

Mr. LAMBERT: But have the military authorities decided that the cattle should be slaughtered?

Lord STANLEY: I anticipate that if they are required for food they are slaughtered. I cannot say more.

Mr. LAMBERT: Will the noble Lord get the information by Monday?

Lord STANLEY: No, Sir.

OBSERVANCE OF PAROLE.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether British soldiers, who are not commanding officers, and who are captured by the enemy, are permitted to give their parole or to take an oath not to take any further part in the war; and whether, if such parole is given or oath taken by a soldier, he is, on being liberated by the Boers, permitted by our military authorities to observe parole or oath.

Mr. BRODRICK: According to custom of war, officers other than commanding officers are not permitted to give parole either for themselves or their men, and soldiers are not allowed to do so. A State has no power to force its subjects to act contrary to parole.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS: May I ask whether, if parole is given or oath taken by a soldier, he is, on being liberated by the Boers, permitted by our military authorities to observe his parole or oath.

Lord STANLEY: If they are not allowed to give parole at all, no parole can be given.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS: When it is given, and they are liberated, are they forced to fight or not?

Lord STANLEY: Certainly.

Mr. BRYN ROBERTS: Does the same rule apply to the Boer army?

[No answer was returned.]

WAR GRATUITY — CIVILIAN HOSPITAL ORDERLIES.

Mr. GUTHRIE (Tower Hamlets, Bow, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the civilian orderlies and other employees of the various field and stationary private hospitals who served in South Africa are to receive the war gratuity authorised by the Special Army Order, dated 8th December, 1900; and, if not, whether he will state the reason for making a distinction between these men and the orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who performed exactly similar work.

Lord STANLEY: As I have previously explained to the House, the war gratuity is not applicable to civilians employed on specific terms during the war.

RETURN OF TROOPS.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War on whose advice and on whose responsibility, having regard to the statement of Sir Alfred Milner that the last half-year of the South African War has been a period of retrogression, were troops sent home in September and October last.

Mr. BRODRICK: I understand this statement of Sir Alfred Milner's to have been made on a review of the whole situation, which could not be foreseen in September and October last. The troops were sent home by Lord Roberts with the full concurrence of the Government.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: Was the war then over?

RETURN OF THE HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the repeated requests for mounted troops for South Africa, whether he can explain why were the Household Brigade, a cavalry corps, sent home, and infantry volunteers kept at the front.

Mr. BRODRICK: At the time when the Household Cavalry were sent home the want of mounted troops in South Africa was not felt—cavalry drafts had been suspended. Great difficulty was also experienced in finding remounts for such heavy men. Some infantry Volunteers were sent home at the time, but subsequent events postponed the return of the remainder or of any other troops.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—NEW ARMY ORDER.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can explain why the Imperial Yeomanry Order has been issued before the House of Commons has had the opportunity of considering the effect of the proposal upon the Volunteer Force and the possibility of getting recruits for the Yeomanry under the new conditions, and in what way commanding officers of Volunteer corps are to be compensated for having at the invitation of the War Office raised within the past few months, at great expense and trouble, companies of mounted infantry, and supplying them with uniform and accoutrements in consideration of a certain number of years service under them; and whether the Government have power compulsorily to transfer men who have joined particular regiments of the Volunteer force, and bound themselves to serve for four or five years, to another regiment and to another branch of the Army, serving under entirely different conditions.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Army Order relating to the Yeomanry published on Thursday forms part of the scheme formulated in the resolution of which he has given notice for a future day; and, if so, why he has proceeded to put in execution a policy which has not yet received the approval of the House.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that an Amendment to the motion of the Secretary of State for War (Army Organisation) to retain the Yeomanry as at present, and to increase the Mounted Infantry to 25,000, instead of the 35,000 Yeomanry as proposed, was put on the Notice Paper before the recess, and whether he will suspend the Army Order issued yesterday until the House has had the opportunity of discussing this question.

Mr. BRODRICK: I will reply at the same time to the questions of the hon. Member for Dundee and of my hon. and gallant friend the Member for Taunton. It has been necessary to issue an Army Order affecting the Yeomanry because the training of the force for the year begins in May, and the Commander-in-Chief has strongly recommended that the training and equipment of the force should be altered. The change in the status of the Yeomanry undoubtedly forms part of the general army reform now in progress, but the resolution of which I have given notice deals merely with the establishment of the Yeomanry. The present establishment will not be raised until the resolution is passed by Parliament, but it would be impossible to allow the training of the Yeomanry to proceed or the recruits to be raised under the old system which has been definitely abandoned. The question of establishment and the points raised by the Member for Taunton are open to debate and decision, as they were before the issue of the Order, which cannot be suspended. In reference to the question of the Member for Central Sheffield, there is nothing in the Yeomanry Warrant which forces a transfer of Volunteer Mounted Infantry to Yeomanry, but the military authorities are not prepared to continue the isolated companies of mounted troops hitherto raised, and if commanding officers can prove a pecuniary loss to their corps, they will be safeguarded against this result. I may add that from all parts of the country, and from many Members of the House, I have received urgent appeals that, on the ground of expense as well as convenience, the new system of training and equipment of the Yeomanry should be at once made public.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S SALARY.

Mr. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state what is the salary of the new Commander-in-Chief Lord Roberts, and whether it is larger than the salary paid to Lord Wolseley, the late Commander-in-Chief; if so, can he say the reason of such increase?

Mr. BRODRICK: The salary of the new Commander-in-Chief is £5,000. It is £500 more than that of the late Commander-in-Chief, as it was considered desirable to make provision for house allowance.

Mr. DALY: Had not the late Commander-in-Chief a house?

MILITIA TRAININGS.

Mr. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what Militia regiments, if any, will be embodied this year; and whether the regiments not so embodied will be called out for annual training.

Mr. BRODRICK: I am not in a position to make any statement on this subject at present. We desire to avoid calling on the Militia as far as possible.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—IRISH REGIMENTS.

Dr. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if it is the intention of the Government to establish in Irish counties regiments of the Imperial Yeomanry.

Mr. BRODRICK: No decision to this effect has been arrived at.

TITLE OF YEOMANRY FORCE.

Colonel WELBY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the omission of the title Imperial from that part of his resolution that relates to the Yeomanry was intentional or a printer's error; and whether he is aware that that omission has led many to believe that it was intended to reserve the title Imperial for those troops, whether raised at home or in any other part of the Empire, that will be available for Imperial purposes.

MR. BRODRICK: The omission was intentional. I am not aware that it had the effect referred to in the second part of the question.

ARMY RECRUITING—INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now state when the Annual Report of the Inspector General of Recruiting will be circulated.

LORD STANLEY: It is hoped that it will be in the hands of Members on Tuesday.

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the terms of the new contracts for the supply of meat to the Army will exclude foreign meat; and whether these conditions will apply to contracts for the supply of meat to the troops stationed in Ireland.

LORD STANLEY: Foreign meat is excluded, and the conditions will apply to Ireland.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: What precaution will be taken to prevent the evasion of the terms of the contract?

LORD STANLEY: Every precaution possible.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: May I ask whether the contractors who import foreign meat for other purposes will be permitted to tender for these contracts?

LORD STANLEY: Certainly, so long as they fulfil the conditions of our tender.

VOLUNTEER CLOTHING CONTRACTS.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether new regulation drab serge clothing and a head-dress for drill and manœuvre purposes for the Regular and Auxiliary forces have been sealed; and, if not, whether a decision may be arrived at at once, as there are several Volunteer corps which have to be reclothed before their annual camp this year, and which, unless the orders are placed in the hands of contractors at once, will be without uniform.

LORD STANLEY: The patterns of the articles forming the proposed service dress of the regular forces are at present under consideration. These changes in pattern will not affect Volunteer corps, unless so desired by the corps.

NAVY—RETURN OF FLEETS.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can now state on what day the Return of Fleets will be circulated to Members.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): I hope to-morrow.

THE BUDGET PROPOSALS—EFFECT UPON RUNNING CONTRACTS.

MR. PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will be prepared to consider the question of exempting from the export duty on coal contracts already entered into, in view of the fact that such duty, if persisted in, must necessarily fall on the exporter, and cannot be recovered in the price to be paid by the buyer abroad.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Yes, Sir. I am at present considering this matter with the members of the Board of Customs, and I hope to have the advantage of some communications on the subject this evening from the hon. Member and those who are associated with him.

MR. WARR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the provisions of Section 20 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, and of Section 8 of the Finance Act, 1900, the seller will, in cases in which sales of coal or sugar have been effected without express provision to the contrary, be at liberty to add to the contract price an amount equivalent to the duty to be imposed under the Budget resolutions.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The answer, generally speaking, appears to be in the affirmative, as regards any sugar not cleared prior to the incidence of the duty, though of course it will depend in each case on the actual terms of the contract. The section would not apply to coal, but I propose to insert a clause in the Finance Bill which would have a similar effect.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that business at Cardiff is practically at a standstill owing to the uncertainty as to the incidence of the new coal duty, and if in view of the suffering that will follow a paralysis of the trade of the district and the consequent cessation of work at the mines, he will take immediate steps to make known to the shippers of coal and merchants at Cardiff the precise liability of buyers and sellers of coal for export under existing contracts and future sales.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I think the hon. Member is confusing two matters—the liability for the duty in the first instance, and the ultimate incidence of that duty. The payment in the first instance is clear, and the question of exemptions so far as existing contracts are concerned is a matter which, as I have explained, I have under consideration, and I hope shortly to make an announcement to the House. Meanwhile, so far as I can see, there is no reason why the duty should not be paid in Cardiff as elsewhere.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS: The confusion, if any, has not arisen in my mind, but in that of the merchants of Cardiff.

CHINA—CLAIMS OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office caused to be published in the newspapers on 8th April an announcement that all claims of British subjects against the Chinese Government must be notified to His Majesty's Minister at Peking by 1st May; and, if so, whether he will inform the House by what route letters posted in England on 9th April could reach Peking by 1st May.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): Yes, but it was stated in a previous notice issued in March that claims should be forwarded to the Foreign Office, when necessary. Such claims have been, and will be, transmitted to His Majesty's Minister by telegraph.

NIU-CHWANG MARITIME CUSTOMS BUILDINGS.

MR. NORMAN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state what flag flies over the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs House at Niu-chwang; by whom the customs receipts are collected, and what is their destination.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The Russian flag was hoisted over the Maritime Customs buildings on 4th August, when the Russian force occupied the town. The work is being carried on by the Chinese Customs staff, and the receipts are being collected by them under Russian supervision, and are held in trust by the Russian authorities subject to a future settlement.

PAPERS ON CHINA.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state when he will lay upon the Table further Papers on China, and whether he will include in the next Papers presented those concerned with the Manchurian Convention down to the date of the refusal of China to sign the Convention, and those concerned with the recent dispute between the Russians and English at Tientsin.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Papers containing the correspondence down to the end of December are nearly ready, and will be presented very shortly. Further Papers will be presented in due course, but I am unable to give any pledge at present as to the subjects which will be included.

MR. DILLON: Why does the Government only include correspondence down to the end of December in the next batch of Chinese Papers?

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I think the hon. Member will recognise that the preparation of these Blue-books requires a very great deal of care, and the Foreign Office has had such a tremendous amount of work lately that it really has not been able to get through it in sufficient time. But I quite feel that Papers ought to be presented soon, and I will do my best.

COAL EXPORT RETURN.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade when the Return relating to the export of coal from each port in the United Kingdom to various foreign countries, and ordered to be printed on 2nd April, will be issued to Members.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am informed by His Majesty's Stationery Office that the Return will be issued next Tuesday.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether it is proposed to permit school boards to spend school board rates upon maintaining schools recognised under the higher elementary minute which forms part of the Education Code for 1901.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education are advised that higher elementary schools may be established and maintained by school boards out of the school fund. But if this right were disputed, the question would have to be decided, not by the Board of Education, but in the first instance by the Local Government Board auditor, and ultimately by the courts of law.

CATTLE BREEDING IN COUNTY WESTMEATH.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has been approached by the County Live Stock Committee of the County Westmeath for leave to grant premiums for this year for thoroughbred bulls three and four years old exhibited at the County Westmeath or other shows, on the grounds that it will be impossible to obtain the necessary number of younger bulls owing to restrictions on importation consequent on the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in England, and seeing that otherwise small farmers will be obliged to breed from indifferently bred bulls, and that half of the grant for premiums is contributed by the ratepayers, can he state whether the Department is entitled to ignore the views of their committee, and will he take steps to give effect to them.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Cattle-breeding schemes approved by the Department must be voluntarily accepted by a county council before any charge can fall on the rates, hence there is no danger of local views being ignored. As the main object of the scheme is to promote the introduction of young bulls, preferably yearlings, the Department was not able to consent to the exception proposed by the Westmeath Committee. I am inquiring whether the difficulties due to restriction on importations from England were fully considered before the decision was arrived at.

IRISH REGISTRATION LAWS.

MR. FIELD: (Dublin, St. Patrick) I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in many Irish parliamentary divisions hundreds of qualified voters have been annually disfranchised through the neglect of agents, landlords, or others failing to fill in and return the requisition forms; whether he can explain why no prosecutions were instituted against such offenders in accordance with the provisions of The Representation of the People Act, 1884; and whether he will, in future, take measures to have the law on this point carried into effect in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: The duty of prosecuting is imposed by statute on the local authorities, and without communicating with these authorities the Local Government Board is not aware that it is the case, as alleged, that no prosecutions have been instituted against persons who have failed to comply with the provisions of the Act of 1884.

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE PURCHASE—GERMAN STATE RAILWAYS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the German State Railways have realised a profit of £23,200,000 last year, and that this sum was utilised by the Government for revenue purposes; and whether he will appoint a commission to inquire into and report upon Irish railways with a view to their acquisition by the State and the reduction of taxation in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no information on the first paragraph. The reply to the second paragraph is in the negative.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has considered the advisability of providing day industrial schools in Ireland; and, if so, whether he can state what steps he proposes to take.

MR. WYNDHAM: Legislation would be necessary for the purpose; and I am unable to give any undertaking on the subject.

MR. FIELD: Will the right hon. Gentleman further consider this question?

MR. WYNDHAM: I will consider any matter brought before me, but I cannot promise to introduce legislation.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 17th inst. the Inspector of Constabulary for Limerick county came over from Ireland to Great Britain in company with several sergeants and constables of that force in connection with some manœuvres or drill practice; whether he will say where those manœuvres are being held, and whether they are of a military character; and who will be obliged to defray the expenses thus incurred.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir; these officers proceeded to England to undergo instruction in musketry at Hythe. The same course has been adopted in previous years. The expenses will be defrayed from the Constabulary Vote.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the Government send these men and their rifles to South Africa?

CAPTAIN DONELAN: With what object do the constables undergo this training?

MR. WYNDHAM: To perfect their markmanship.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, seeing that it has been the practice to introduce a Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill in the course of each Parliament, and that (except in the case of the last Parliament) it has been the practice to introduce the Bill during the first session of Parliament, whether a Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill will be introduced during the present session.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I understand the hon. Gentleman is mistaken in supposing that it has been the practice to pass this Bill in the first session of a new Parliament, and I am told that it is not necessary.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: To introduce it?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I see no object in introducing the Bill if it is not to pass.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): A great deal of interest is taken in this question, and I have received several communications on it within the last few days.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No evidence has come before me showing that there is great interest.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL'S QUESTIONS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL proceeded to ask a question in which he asked for the publication of the Report of the South African Commission, from which the Secretary to the Admiralty had quoted in a speech during the Easter recess.

*MR. SPEAKER: The question is not in a form in which it would be received at the Table.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I gave the notice at ten o'clock, and remained in the House till twenty minutes past two, yet the Clerk at the Table did not tell me it was out of order.

*MR. SPEAKER: I did not know the hon. Member handed the question in at the Table; I spoke from what I heard the hon. Member say.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Are the questions proposed to be put by Members of this House to be censored by the Clerks at the Table? Where do we stand?

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member will ask it in proper form——

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I did put it, in writing, in proper form, and the Clerk ruled it out of order.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is sufficient for me to say that the question is out of order now.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will put it in another form. Is the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House aware that the Secretary to the Admiralty referred to this Report in a speech he made at Belfast, and is there not a rule that when a Minister of the Crown refers to any public document it shall be published?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member, I understand, is referring to matters which have passed outside this House, and is using them by way of argument.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will tell you what I wish to do, Sir. The first part of my question was, no doubt, relevant. Then my contention was that, having regard to the fact that the Secretary to the Admiralty, a Minister of the Crown, and the Chairman of the Commission, referred to this Report, which has not yet been published, this House ought now to have it before it.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a question on a matter of fact. It is a matter of argument.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: May I ask—

*MR. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member will take the usual course of putting the question in writing, and then refer to me if any objection is taken to it at the Table.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: With great respect, Sir, this is a matter affecting the rights of every private Member of this House—it affects our rights of interrogation. I did hand in this question at ten p.m., and remained here till 2.30 a.m. Surely it was the absolute duty of the Clerk, if he objected to it, to refer the matter to you and to tell me? I cannot have my questions suppressed by the Clerk.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member has any complaint to make, the proper and usual course is to come to me. I will make inquiries, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what course of business is proposed for next week.

*COLONEL WELBY: Will the Amendments of the Army Annual Bill be taken after midnight to-night?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is necessary to go on with the Army Annual Bill, for the day is approaching when it must pass into law. The business for next week it is impossible to foresee until we know how long debate will be upon the remaining Budget resolutions. But probably the chief business next week will be getting the Speaker out of the Chair for the Civil Service Estimates and the remaining stages of the Budget resolutions. The Report of the resolutions I am anxious to take at a time that will allow of the opportunity for debate.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Mr. Kemp; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen.

MR. HALSEY further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Isolation Hospitals Bill; Mr. Charles Allen, Mr. Bill, Mr. Colston, Mr. John Dewar, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Sir Walter Foster, Sir Robert Gunter, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Mr. Grant Lawson, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Sir Thomas Roe, Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. Strutt, and Mr. Tomlinson.

MR. HALSEY further reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Cremation Bill [Lords]:—Mr. Banbury, Mr. Broadhurst, Sir Michael Foster, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Jeffreys, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. Lowe, Dr. MacDonnell, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Seton-Karr, Mr. Samuel Smith, Dr. E. C. Thompson, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Luke White, and Sir Frederick Wills.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That the other Government Business have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MORNING SITTINGS.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In moving that until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday at Two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to such morning sittings, I may at once say I hope that but few words will be considered necessary in explanation of the motion. Everybody will admit the importance of getting through our financial business, and there is much to be said in favour of morning sittings under these circumstances. No one will seriously maintain that the Government can afford to give the whole of Tuesdays to private Members. I trust the compromise I have adopted will meet with approval from all parts of the House, and that those friends of the Government who are most anxious for the rights of private Members will feel that the Government have done their best to preserve them.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday, at Two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to such Morning Sittings:"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I hesitated in rising, because I could not believe that a motion of this kind would be allowed to pass without some protest in behalf of the rights of private Members in this House. I rise, of course, to speak on this question from the purely Irish point of view. If the practice of the Government in taking Tuesdays year after year is to be persisted in, it would be far more honest, far more straightforward, and far more convenient to abolish altogether the supposed right of private Members to have the Tuesdays for the discussion of private Members' business, and to annex Tuesday once and for all as a Government day. Let me say a word on the general question. We are dealing at present with a session of Parliament in which there is practically no legislative programme, and from the very commencement of the session the Government has found it necessary to appropriate private Members' time. I ask the House of Commons to consider seriously what is the probable future before this House, if, in the case of a session where there is no legislative programme, the Government are forced to annex the time of private Members. It means that when a Government comes into office with a legislative programme it will be absolutely necessary for the House of Commons to sit the whole year through, if there is to be any legislation at all. These are serious considerations, which I think hon. Members ought to bear in mind. For my part I do not think the case is as bad as that. My conviction is that if the management of the business of the House were conducted as it used to be in the old times, more in a spirit of conciliation and less by the violent use of the brutal methods of the closure and coercion, it would be possible for the House of Commons, notwithstanding the enormously increased business which has been thrown upon it of recent years, still adequately to fulfil its duties in discussing Supply and to have a margin for a legislative programme. But I leave that part of the question to be discussed by hon. Members who will take part in this debate solely from the point of view of the rights of private Members. I wish to put the case of Ireland.

In the King's Speech the Government promised to introduce legislation dealing with the question of land purchase in Ireland. I say it is discreditable to the Government, having given that promise in the King's Speech, on a matter of such vital importance to Ireland, that they should continue to maintain silence upon it. Before the House adjourned for the holidays I asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he could say, as representing the Government, if he had any real, serious intention whatever of introducing a Bill on this question this session. He would not give a definite answer, but he gave an answer which led everybody to believe that he had no such serious intention at all, and he based his argument, if I may say so, on the ground that there was no time. Now, I would be prepared even to sacrifice my interest in private Members' rights to allow the right hon. Gentleman to get morning sittings on Tuesdays for the rest of the session, if he would undertake to devote the time to redeeming his pledge for legislation; but he will do nothing of the kind. I do not know whether the Government have made up their mind as to what they propose to do on this Irish land purchase question. I do not know whether they have got a Bill ready or not. It seems to me that if they have not made up their mind, and if they have not prepared a Bill, it was a most improper thing for them to have put that statement into the King's Speech. If they have made up their mind, I say it is a discreditable attitude to take up to refuse to disclose their proposals, and in the same breath to ask private Members of the House of Commons to sacrifice their rights on Tuesdays for the rest of the session. I ask the right hon. Gentleman to put the Government Bill on Irish land purchase on the Table of the House, so that we can see what the ideas of the Government are. If the Government are not prepared to pledge themselves to devote sufficient time for the passage of such a Bill, let them produce a Bill so that we may know in what direction the mind of the Government is tending on the question.

The right hon. Gentleman has more than once admitted the urgent importance of the question. Scarcely a day passes on which there is not a question from some Irish Member dealing with some phase or other of this land purchase question—showing the urgency and importance of it in every part of Ireland. I say it is monstrous for the Government to come down now and ask for Tuesdays without giving any indication as to how they intend to use that time or any indication that they intend to fulfil the pledge they gave on Irish land purchase. I resent keenly the off-hand manner in which the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House gets up and proposes to annex the whole of the Tuesdays for the rest of the session, and says: "This is a motion, the effect of which will be merely to deprive private Members of all their rights, and therefore it does not require many words to justify it."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is misrepresenting what I said.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I submit that I am giving a fair translation of the right hon. Gentleman's words.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman fails to give a fair translation.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: If my translation is not a fair one, then I at once withdraw it. But I do assert, and, of course, the whole matter is in the recollection of the House—it has occurred only within the last few minutes—that the right hon. Gentleman proposes this serious motion to take away Tuesdays for the whole of the rest of the session. [AN HON. MEMBER: Only till Whitsuntide.] That remark comes from some very inexperienced Member of the House; for anybody who has any experience of the House knows that whatever pressure there may be on the Government to take Tuesdays up to Whitsuntide, the pressure will be overwhelming after Whitsuntide. To take Tuesdays up to Whitsuntide means to take them for the whole session. Well, that serious proposal was made by the right hon. Gentleman in a two minutes speech, and in an off-hand manner, as if the subject did not deserve the earnest consideration of the House of Commons, and as if the proposal ought to be passed without practically any discussion at all and as a matter of course. I say that is a fair translation of the speech and of the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman. I keenly resent these large demands being made on the time of private Members in this off-hand manner by the Government. I can only speak in behalf of the Irish Members, and so far as we are concerned we resent this keenly, and let me say to the right hon. Gentleman, that it would be more honourable for him in making this proposal to say that if he gets this time he will redeem the pledge given in the King's Speech, and introduce the Irish Land Purchase Bill.

*MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): I have been but a few weeks in the House, but I feel I must rise to join in the protest against the unbusinesslike methods of the Government. We are now at an advanced stage of the Parliamentary year, and there seems no hope of any reasonable progress being made with any of the many questions in which hon. Members are deeply interested. I have been a member of other assemblies than this, and those in charge of the business of these assemblies at least use the time which is given to them to businesslike purpose. For instance, on the great question of education, on which we have been trying for long enough to get a lead from the Government, we had an answer this very day from the Vice-President of the Council to the effect that he is not certain whether his own minutes are legal or not, and practically inviting some—I was going to say—some junior Member of the Government, but perhaps I ought to say, some prospective Member of the Government, to upset his latest edict on the higher grade school question. Now, I do think it is time that the House made a stand and said it will not give this additional time to the Government unless they say clearly that it is going to be used for some intelligent purpose. For my part I am willing to give a good deal more time to the Government if it is to be used in pressing forward even the legislative programme set forth in the King's Speech, such as that relating to education and temperance. I submit it is mere foolishness on the part of the House to give them more time unless we are to know how it is going to be used. The Leader of the House only the other day gave an unnecessarily long holiday to the Members of the House—[Cries of "No, no."]—and I know that he has the theory that it is absolutely necessary that the House should rise before the 12th of August. But there are some of us who think that the discharge of public business is of more importance than shooting grouse, and we are getting very impatient indeed. I hope that a strong protest will be made against a suggestion of this kind, seeing that we have practically no Bills before us.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): The House is always in a great difficulty in discussing this inroad on private Members' time by Government taking the Tuesdays, because we are not in order in alluding to the better use that might be made of that time. Mr. Courtney, on this motion for taking Tuesdays, threw out the suggestion of giving various sections of the House more power over private Members' time by recognising syndicate motions. We are always in difficulty in debating such suggestions at all efficaciously, and we get little support from either of the front benches when definite proposals are before the House. The House will remember that on several occasions when hon. Members have tried to bring this matter before the House they have been met in the most hostile fashion. The Leader of the Irish party and the hon. Member who has just sat down have asked the Government to tell us a little more definitely than they have yet done what is the use they propose to make of the time they ask for. I think the Irish Members are within their right in pressing for a declaration in regard to the Irish legislation of the Government; and we are equally within our right in pressing, and we are bound to press, for some more definite declaration in regard to proposed legislation on factories and workshops, which affects the whole United Kingdom. The statement of the Leader of the House was extraordinarily vague, much more vague than usual when such a demand is made. He alluded only to financial business, and hardly mentioned at all any other business. The promised Irish Land Purchase Bill, and the promised Education Bill have not yet been introduced; and the Government have only shown some desire to go forward with the Factories and Workshops Bill. Everyone who has taken an interest in this question concurs in the view that that Bill is a great improvement on the Bill of last year; but it is a Bill on which we shall have many observations to make in Grand Committee, if it goes there. The Bill, being a considerable improvement on that of last year, forms a most valuable basis for discussion before the Grand Committee. But will the Government tell us whether they seriously mean business with that Bill? Last year we had a Bill of about the same bulk as the present Bill. It contained clauses to which some of us objected, and omitted clauses which we wanted, but last year the Grand Committees were starved and ruined by the mode of conducting business in the House. Now, here is a chance of giving a Grand Committee solid, serious work to do, as it did when we passed the Factories Act of 1895. Do the Government mean business? Will they give a day, or more if necessary, to the Second Reading of the Factories and Workshops Bill, in order that the Grand Committee may be relieved from the process of sterilization which has prevailed for the last year or two? Hon. Members are discouraged when they find that after their solid, heavy, and very hard work on these Grand Committees no good comes out of it, and that their labours are wasted. Here we are, through no fault of our own, but solely because the Government met Parliament too late at the beginning of the session, with no progress made with any measure promised in the King's Speech. I confine my question to the one important Bill which has the slightest chance of passing into law this session—I mean the Factories and Workshops Bill—and I ask whether the Government mean to persevere with that Bill?

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I desire to acknowledge the courtesy of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House;

but as a private Member I desire to protest against these repeated encroachments against the rights and privileges of private Members. It has been almost impossible of recent years for private Members to do anything whatever; we have been reduced absolutely to voting machines. When I first entered the House private Members' days were never encroached upon, or very rarely indeed. Up till Whitsuntide we had a chance of bringing on Bills and getting them advanced a stage, or of moving resolutions. I have no doubt that a private Member could get forty of his friends to make a House for him at nine o'clock, but it is an exceedingly difficult thing to do. I candidly confess that I have done it, by asking them to dine with me in the House; but that is a process which one cannot repeat indefinitely; and of course the cost is very great. There is another difficulty in forming a House for a private Member. A count will be moved immediately after nine o'clock, and unless there are forty Members present the House adjourns. Indeed, instances can be quoted where the Government have engineered a count. Now, if the Government ask us to adopt this resolution to-day, will they assure us that they are bound to form a House for private Members at nine o'clock, and not put on private Members the onus and difficulty of securing a quorum? I shall vote against this resolution unless the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House will assist private Members in forming a quorum at nine o'clock on Tuesday nights.

*MR. NORVAL W. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster): I would ask the Government whether they will bring in the Bill promised in the King's Speech in regard to the prevention of drunkenness; and, further, to state whether, should the proposal now before the House be granted, they will give an opportunity for the consideration in Committee of the Bill to prevent the supply of drink to young children which passed its Second Reading with such a large majority, made up of Members on both sides of the House, representing the intense interest existing throughout the country. Speaking as a new Member for himself and many around him, here for the first time charged to take some slight share in the business of the nation, I would appeal to the responsible leaders of the Opposition on the Front Bench to voice our wishes and bring such pressure to bear on the Government as will force their hands to bring in the Bill promised in the King's Speech, and also to assist the consideration of the Bill to prevent the sale of drink to young children.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I am sorry to find, on my return to this House, that the Members of the Government are still engaged in the same old task of taking the time of private Members; and that in so doing they are driving another nail into the coffin of this House. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich the other day solemnly informed us that power was departing from this House, that this House was losing credit with the country, and that power was going from this House to a Cabinet composed mainly of a family whom we all honour! Well, it is so, and the reason is that this House has lacked spirit. On every appeal which a Minister makes for further time for the purposes of the Ministry there is no resistance, but a blind following of the Ministry into the lobby. We have had disorderly manifestations of spirit even this session. Nobody regrets them more than I do. I am shocked when events of that kind occur; but I cannot acquit His Majesty's Government of all blame. If they are determined to exaggerate the holidays, and to call the House together ten days or a fortnight later than it ought to have been called, and to crush into that small amount of time until that fatal 31st March all the amount of work we have got to do, then scenes are certain to occur. As I have said, I regret these scenes; but let me tell the right hon. Gentleman that if he goes on attempting to shut down the safety-valves of the House there will be other explosions. Why does he not try to ride the House like a horseman? I ask, why does His Majesty's Government want these Tuesdays? No reason has been given. Possibly we shall hear of one before the debate is concluded; but let me point out this, that he has already taken our

Fridays for Supply. He has got the whole of the session before him, and now he asks for Tuesdays up to Whitsuntide. That, of course, means all the Tuesdays of the session. Why is there this pressure of business? Is it because we began our sittings too late, or because we have had too long a holiday? Is it because of some determination on the part of the right hon. Gentleman that, whether the business of the nation is ended or not, we shall rise on the 10th August in order to enable hon. Gentlemen whose nervous tissue is too slack to go to the moors in Scotland by the twelfth? I repudiate all this. There are gentlemen who are moving Heaven and earth in order to get into this House. I should prefer that such persons should not be in the House at all. I should prefer to see the House composed of a smaller number of Members who mean Parliamentary business. Now, as to Tuesdays, it is a very strong demand on the part of the Government to be made so early in the session. The compromise which my right hon. friend suggests is absolutely no compromise at all, because when hon. Members come down to the House at two o'clock, and the Government exhaust the whole of the morning sitting at nine o'clock, not even the hon. Member for Central Sheffield could keep a House except he asked hon. Members to dinner. It is no compromise at all; but this is a motion not merely for the taking of Tuesdays up to Whitsuntide, but to take them with the condition that Standing Order 56 shall apply to Tuesdays. What is Standing Order 56? It is that when Supply is down for discussion the Speaker shall leave the chair "without question put." The old opportunity to raise a question upon the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair is gone from us, and now the right hon. Gentleman asks for Tuesdays. He asks that the same conditions shall apply as apply to Mondays and Thursdays. Why? Is the right hon. Gentleman going to put down Supply for Tuesdays? He puts down Supply for Fridays. He has taken Fridays from us, and now he is going to take our Tuesdays, but unless he means to put down Supply on Tuesdays, Standing Order 56 would have no applicability to the motion.

I am sorry to find I have to stand almost alone in defence of the rights of those unplaced, unpaid Members who really compose the House of Commons. It is not that I am anxious to introduce Bills. I have never put my name to a Bill since I have been in the House; I consider it my mission rather to criticise, and sometimes endeavour to prevent legislation; but I am sorry to see the House deprived of every opportunity which it possesses for private legislation, and I hope that some rag of spirit will arise, if not among these dry bones, at any rate from some quarter of the House, and put a stop to the continual taking away of private Members' time by one Government after another.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman cannot be surprised at the ebullition of feeling which we have witnessed during the last half hour. It comes with especial strength from my hon. friend who has just sat down, who is always conspicuous for standing up for the private Members of the House; but even if all the private Members' time is absorbed by the Government, I think my hon. friend would still find opportunities to address the House with advantage to the debate and satisfaction to himself. I was more surprised by the importation of a fresh element into this ordinary discussion, with which we are so familiar. That fresh element comes from two hon. friends behind me who are new Members, and who expressed with ingenuousness and frankness the circumstances; they fully expected that, having come into the House, they and others like them would have ample opportunity given to them to prosecute those projects of legislation which they have been advocating for many years in the country, and which expectations the Government, for this session at all events, have effectually prevented being realised.

The right hon. Gentleman was able up to Easter to make some sort of case for the strong measures which he put upon us, because he was able to threaten us with the dreadful consequences which would ensue if the financial business was not completed by the 31st of March. We pointed out again and again that even if that state of things with which he threatened us did arise, it was his own fault, because he had neglected to foresee the circumstances. Now he goes on, after a prolonged Easter holiday, in the same perfunctory manner to propose a new inroad into the time of the House, but in this case we expect to hear some new reason. Nothing, however, is said to us. We are told there is certain financial business to be got through, which we understand; but there is no fixed time for that, as before Easter, and something is said about legislative necessity—necessary legislative measures. We want to know what those necessary legislative measures are. The only indication we have received was in the Speech from the Throne. Where are the measures, and what progress has been made with those which have already been introduced, and which could be proceeded with? Those are the points upon which, I think, the right hon. Gentleman is bound to give the House a great deal more information than he has vouchsafed to us.

I was rather astonished when I saw this motion on the Paper, because it is an unusually early time to commence these morning sittings. I am not sure that if we investigated the matter precedents, with which the right hon. Gentleman is so perfectly familiar, would not be found to show that some motion of this sort may have been taken at such an early period of the session as this; but if that be so, it was on the ground of absolute necessity—on the ground that there was such a mass of legislative business that it was absolutely necessary to take morning sittings. We have had no such assurance upon this occasion, and we ought to have that assurance from the right hon. Gentleman before he can expect us to agree with this proposal.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is my painful duty, but I am sorry to say a familiar one, to bring forward these resolutions curtailing the privileges of the unofficial Members of the House, and to be abused for an hour or two once or twice during the session for performing my painful part. The present debate has been, perhaps, as vigorous as any to which I have listened upon the subject. My hon. friend behind me, the Member for King's Lynn, has come back with renewed vigour from his foreign tour, but I am unable to say, so far as I can judge, however much the Bay of Biscay has improved his health and renewed his vigour, that it has in any way improved his temper. He spoke upon a familiar theme, upon which we have often heard him before, and upon which, I trust, we shall often hear him again, because I hope he will long remain a Member of this House, and so long as he remains a Member he will speak upon it, either from this or the other side of the House. But I do not think he has ever thrown himself into the part with greater *verve* than upon the present occasion. I have noticed, and I hope the House has also noticed, the extraordinary inconsistency between the two sets of arguments we have heard on the present occasion. That inconsistency appeared in different speeches of different speakers, and sometimes it appeared in one speech. The Government is abused first of all for not bringing forward legislative measures, and secondly for taking private Members' time. [A voice: "Wasting it."] An hon. Gentleman says we are wasting time. We are doing so! I do not assert that time is not being wasted; I do not indulge in so paradoxical a statement as to suggest to the House—to the Members of the House who have sat through our debates since we met in February—that there has not been a waste of Parliamentary time. All I deny is that we have wasted it.

It is the duty of the Government to lay before the House, firstly, the business absolutely necessary for carrying on the Government of the country, and secondly, those legislative schemes they are desirous of passing. Very well, that is admitted; so far we have not done very much towards carrying out the second part of our duty, but nobody will deny that we have done the first. The business we have introduced so far is the business which must be carried through, if the Government of the country is to be carried on at all. The business was financial. If that business has taken too long a time, it is not the fault of the Government. I am, indeed, told that if we had met on the 10th of February instead of the 16th—— [A voice: "We met on the 14th."] Well I do not propose to argue that case. I have told the House that the date upon which we met was an appropriate date, and Members will agree with me when I say that during the time between then and Easter, without any undue protraction of the debates, we could have done all the necessary work, and have done also something to carry out those projects of legislation which we are as anxious to pass as any hon. Gentleman opposite.

Is it not rather absurd to say on the one hand that we shall not have Tuesdays, and on the other that we shall bring forward these projects of legislation? The only chance we have of carrying out the schemes which we have indicated to the country in the Speech from the Throne is to get through the financial business of the year. How are we to get through the business unless we get the credits we ask for? Can anything be more absurd than to accuse us in the first place of not getting through these projects of legislation, and on the other hand to refuse to give us Tuesday mornings? Let us remember that the financial business of the session is this year exceptional. You have a most exceptional state of things to deal with—we have a Budget to deal with which everyone must admit is a Budget of great importance, and of exceptional character, raising questions of the utmost public interest, and we have the Civil List. Are we not to have this privilege to carry out these necessarily difficult matters? And until we know how long those discussions will last is it reasonable to ask us to give a definite pledge as to what we shall do between this and the end of the session? It is the habit of the Opposition to ask how the Government intends to allocate the time of the House. I wish the process could be reversed, and that the Opposition could be asked how long they intend to discuss this or that measure.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Let us see your measures; we have not seen them yet.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: You have seen the Budget. Will the hon. Member give me an indication of how long the necessary financial business will take? If he will, I will give some rough estimate as to the amount of time which will be given to legislative business. It is the practice now, as it was been ever since I came into the House, twenty years ago, to accuse the Leader of the House of not managing the business of the House as he should, but, after all, that matter rests with the Opposition and the critics of the Government.

Mr WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E): There never was a Government which had so little regular opposition to deal with.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Then the matter rests with the irregular Opposition! If the irregular Opposition will tell me how long they intend to discuss the Civil List and the Budget, I might be able to satisfy their curiosity on the other questions which have been put. The House will observe that I am only asking this privilege up to Whitsuntide. This motion only relates to the time between this and Whitsuntide. Can hon Gentlemen, regular or irregular, hold out any hopes that after the Budget and the Civil List have been disposed of there will be any leisure for important legislation before Whitsuntide?

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Will the right hon Gentleman produce his Irish Land Purchase Bill?

Mr. A. J BALFOUR: Does the hon. Member propose a bargain across the floor of the House—to let me have the Budget without difficulty or debate it he happens to like the Land Purchase Bill? There are many other persons interested in the Civil List and the Budget, and it is quite clear, and everybody who knows anything about the House knows at all events, that the bulk of the time between this and Whitsuntide must be occupied by financial business, owing to the action of the critics of the Government, regular and irregular, whether legitimate or illegitimate. If my expectations are happily deceived, and the business is got through with great rapidity, the Government will of course proceed with their programme of legislation at once. Those who press upon the Government the necessity for proceeding with that programme are the very persons who ought to give the necessary facilities for getting through the financial business. So I hope the House will not attempt to seriously hamper the Government, and will assent to this motion. The Leader of the Irish party and others referred to the fact that the present condition of business and the apportionment of the time of the House was unsatisfactory. I am not at all disposed to disagree with that statement The result is not, however, due to the action of Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench or on the Front Opposition Bench. It is due to much larger causes. I have no intention of dilating on this theme at present; but if I have the privilege of occupying much longer the position which I now hold I shall certainly have to bring the matter before the House in a substantive form. The matter undoubtedly requires the attention of the House, and I am the last person to say that this enormous amount of time should be taken up by discussions in Supply on matters that must be passed, and that private Members' resolutions and opportunities for legislation should be as much curtailed and diminished as they have been. It is perfectly clear that the present position is not due to anything which the Government have done, or to their having pressed forward too many subjects at once. There must be, and ought to be, further debate on the great financial proposals of the Government; and until they have been substantially dealt with, it is impossible to make great progress with the legislative programme. In order to reach that programme without delay, I ask the House, and especially the critics of the Government, to give the Government the privileges for which we ask.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I confess I am a little surprised at the tone of irritation which the right hon. Gentleman has displayed at the criticisms and protests against the proposal he has made. The right hon. Gentleman has called his proposal a painful one, and so it is. But when a person is inflicting pain, he should not be surprised if there were some complaint on the part of the sufferers. In former days, happily long gone by, I have stood in the same painful position as the right hon. Gentleman, and have asked for the indulgence of the House. But then I thought it becoming on such occasions to appear in the attitude of a suppliant. I came before the House with a halter round my neck, so that if the House did not support me it might execute me; but the right hon. Gentleman has only scolded those who have ventured for a moment to object to or protest against the taking of all their time. The right hon. Gentleman has no right to expect that the House should go like a lamb to the slaughter—

> "Pleased to the last, he crops the flowery food,
> And licks the hand just raised to shed his blood."

The right hon. Gentleman seems to expect that the whole of the House of Commons except himself should gladly yield to the Government that time to which the House is entitled. What my hon. friend next me asked for is that the Government should give some special reasons for the course proposed, and for the privilege they sought. I never remember a demand of this kind being made to the House without the Leader of the House making his prayer to the House and setting forth the special reasons on which it was to be granted. The right hon. Gentleman has advanced no reason but exceptional financial business. Surely this exceptional financial business was of so popular a character that there would not be the smallest difficulty in passing it. It seems as though the right hon. Gentleman had not the confidence he should have in the Budget of his colleague. The right hon. Gentleman might have told the House without pledging himself to particular measures what were the measures to which the Government attached particular importance. It has always been the habit to give this information. The Government might even have introduced the Bills, so that the House and the country might have had time to consider them. Therefore, according to my experience and recollection, we have not had such a declaration of the intentions of the Government as we might have expected from them. The hon. Gentleman behind me has spoken of a particular measure passed by a great majority in this House. There is a strong desire that an opportunity should be given for that Bill to pass into law. If all this time is given to the Government we have a right to expect that they should provide such an opportunity. Then there is the measure referred to by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean, a measure which, I am sure, a great majority of the House desire to see pass, dealing with youthful labour in mines. I cannot help suspecting that the late period at which the House met after Easter had some connection with the extinction of the hopes of that Bill. The ordinary course would have been for us to meet on the Monday after Easter, and then we should not have lost that Wednesday upon which a Bill of such special importance was down for consideration. I must say, having listened to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, that I think the protest which has been made, though ineffectual, is perfectly justified, and I am sorry the right hon. Gentleman should not have been able to give some satisfactory answer to my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition as to the legislative intentions of the Government.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I think that these inroads upon the time of private Members are becoming more and more serious, and that we have certainly a right to make some protest. It is quite true that when we do have a certain amount of time it happens in some way or another that the Irish Members get the greater part of it, and as a London Member I think they really get an unfair share of private Members' time. How this is to be avoided I do not know, but certainly there are many points which we London and English Members desire to bring before the House, but have not the opportunity. The question as to why the Government do not let us know some of the measures they intend bringing forward is a very serious one. If the Leader of the House would bring forward some of those measures—whether on education, Irish land, or the temperance question—even though they were introduced under the ten minutes' rule, we should see what they were, and have something to consider and digest. But some of us almost fancy that the Government have not made up their minds upon these questions. I think it is only reasonable that we should know what these measures are, and that if we give this time—reluctantly, because we are compelled to—the Government should give a pledge that the main points upon which they intend to legislate this session should be placed before the House. There are not many questions mentioned in the King's Speech; it is a very meagre fare, but I think it is reasonable we should know what the Government propose to do. We must make a certain protest against our time being taken, and, although it may be of no use we are bound to support our rights to the best of our ability.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): The first feature in the present debate is, to my mind, the tone in which the Leader of the House made this motion to-night. As the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth said, it is the custom on such occasions for Ministers to appear in an attitude of apology at least, and to put forward some special grounds on which they make this large claim on the rights of private Members. On the present occasion the only apology the First Lord offers is for not taking the whole of the Tuesdays up to Whitsuntide. When I heard the right hon. Gentleman I was reminded of an occasion in 1895, when the then Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House, the present Member for West Monmouth, ten days after the Address proposed to take Tuesdays up to the 31st March for the necessary financial business of the year. He made that motion in a speech occupying five or six pages of *Hansard*, giving a long and detailed explanation of the grounds on which he based his claim. What was the result? Although then the private Members still retained their rights to Fridays (which have now been taken from them), no sooner had the right hon. Gentleman sat down, than up sprang the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, quivering with indignation, and delivered a speech extending to ten pages of *Hansard*, denouncing the proposal. Here is a passage from that speech. He said—

> "But if anyone would examine the series of precedents in this matter he would find that those precedents were growing, he would find that the Government of the day — be it a

Liberal Government or a Conservative Government—never went back upon a precedent when once it was made, so that year after year more of the time of the House and more control over the House were obtained by the Government. Now what was the precedent they were asked to establish on this occasion? Within ten days of the termination of the debate on the Address, private Members were to be deprived of any opportunity of bringing forward motions, except after nine o'clock on Friday evenings, and of any chance of having discussions on Bills which they had introduced, unless they had been fortunate enough to secure the first or second place on the thirteen or fourteen Wednesdays before Whitsuntide. That might be a necessary change in their procedure; circumstances might have arisen which rendered it right and proper to make it. But he was absolutely certain that this resolution, or something more stringent, would again be proposed after Easter, and would practically apply to the whole of the session."

That was the grievance complained of with indignation by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1895, in a session when there were large and important Bills to be introduced, and a considerable programme of legislation indicated in the Queen's Speech. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say—

> "What had happened already? When hon. Members were deprived of the opportunities allotted to them by the ordinary rules of the House for bringing forward matters in which they took an interest, they persistently bubbled up on every other occasion. Adjournments were moved, and debates were started on questions of principle in Committee of Supply, instead of Supply being confined, as used to be the case, solely to questions of finance."

The right hon. Gentleman evidently approved of the cause of the then Tory Opposition, and yet the present Leader of the House thinks he is entitled to complain, now that he has drawn the bonds of discipline against the rights of private Members infinitely tighter than they were then proposed to be drawn, if hon. Members "bubble over," and other opportunities are sought for pressing questions in which they are interested upon the attention of the House. To use the language of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol, I ask the House to consider what precedent they are setting this year. Every Tuesday up to the present has been taken by the Government. It is a mockery to talk about giving us nine o'clock sittings; the Government might as well take the whole of the day, as such sittings are almost invariably counted out. Where do the private Members come in? In view of the action of the Government this year, I say it would be more decent and honest to abolish altogether the Standing Order giving private Members any rights on Tuesdays or Fridays.

I have never known a session in which less business was placed before the House by the Government, and yet this is the session in which such a precedent is being set. If the House agrees in such a session to part with all its Tuesdays, what argument will there be for any private Member against the Government taking the whole of the Tuesdays in a session in which there is legislative business to be brought forward? But that is not all. This is being done in a session when the closure has been used with greater stringency and frequency than I ever remember being the case before. I venture to say that while there will hardly be a statute of importance added to the Statute-book, it will be shown at the end of the session that the closure has been used with more frequency and stringency than at any time in the history of the House of Commons. When a Minister talks of the waste of public time, I want to know what he means by that. The Leader of the House is armed with greater powers than any Minister ever had before for putting an end to discussion, and whenever he thinks that discussion has gone far enough he does not scruple to use those powers, and yet the business of the country is in a state of paralysis. The business of a Minister like the right hon. Gentleman is to conduct the business of the House in a reasonable and a fair way, and it was to my mind a most preposterous position for the right hon. Gentleman to take up, when he said that if there was a difficulty and congestion of business it was entirely the fault of the Opposition. It is an old saying that a bad workman quarrels with his tools, and the real difficulty in this matter is that those upon whom the responsibility for the conduct and management of the business of the House must rest have so managed it that there is congestion, and that public time has been wasted, and when the results are made manifest the Leader of the House, instead of examining his own conscience, turns upon the Opposition and seeks to thrust the blame upon them. When the Leader of the House talks of some measure which he is revolving in his mind, by which the business of the House is to be re-distributed, I warn him that that problem has been tried over and over again. It is the problem of trying to put a gallon into a pint pot. You cannot by any redistribution of the time of the House or by appointing Committees get this House to deal with more business than the time at its disposal is able to allow it to cope with. The only way in which you will solve this problem is by getting rid of some of the business of this House, and letting it be done by those who better understand it. Why is this House in such a state of paralysis that the business of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales must be thrown into the background? Why, it is simply due to the policy of Imperialism and expansion. You are not content with doing the business of Great Britain and Ireland, you must undertake to extend this Empire into every part of the habitable globe, and having undertaken to manage the business of all those multitudinous races you have not time to attend to the business at home. The House of Commons cannot manage the affairs of the whole world, and it is this Imperialism and expansion, this abominable policy, that is really responsible for the deadlock in the House of Commons, and until you understand that, and base your remedy upon that understanding, you will never get the machine so adjusted as to do the business of this country satisfactorily.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said it was allowed on all hands that their business was being done under pressure, which was not good for the business or the credit of the House. He believed the explanation was that the business of the House was increasing. The hon. Member for East Mayo had condemned our Imperialism. He did not condemn it at all, but the House of Commons as a gathering of sensible men should consider what it involved. Whether they were in favour of it or not they should, as business men, recognise the consequences it carried with it. It must be obvious to anyone that if we were to enlarge our business we must give more time to the business or do it worse. The Leader of the House had referred to the Civil List and the Budget, but surely the right hon. Gentleman knew quite well before the House met that there would be a new Civil List and a special Budget. Why did not the Leader of the House anticipate this and give more time to do the business? The House had a right to complain of the Leader of the House, who would not look the facts in the face. The right hon. Gentleman had lengthened the holidays instead of shortening them. Reference had been made by the Member for Greenwich to the circumstance that the House of Commons was falling in public credit. He agreed with that, and he would say that it would fall further in public repute unless it did its business better than now. He submitted as a plain business man that the Government had not recognised the fact that the House had more business to do, and had not given proper time to do it.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House stated that the arrangement was required on account of the Budget and the Civil List. But on looking at the Paper to-night I find that the next business after the Budget is the Demise of the Crown Bill. I would like to ask the Government whether we are to take the statement of the right hon. Gentleman as an assurance that none of these Tuesdays will be devoted to the Demise of the Crown Bill. If that assurance was given it might mitigate the hostility we feel to the present motion. Unless the right hon. Gentleman confines his motion to the Budget and Civil List, he must let us see what is in his bag. He says, "If you tell me what the Opposition will do, I can easily tell you what Bills we can and will produce." But surely when the Government brought forward the King's Speech they knew what kind of opposition they would have to face. And yet they put forward in the King's Speech a certain programme of legislation. We wish to know whether it is not a fact that, as a rule by Easter, and certainly by the week after Easter, it has been the constant tradition of the Government to let the House know what their Bills are.

But here in this case when we ask the Government what its programme of legislation is, the right hon. Gentleman says, "Tell me how the Opposition will behave." I heard the right hon. Gentleman make a most ferocious attack on the Front Opposition Bench, which has never done any harm. I have begun to realise what is the great antipathy the right hon. Gentleman feels to the Front Opposition Bench, and I will tell hon. Gentlemen what it is. The Government, I fancy, after the speech of yesterday, are extremely anxious to get out of office, and extremely anxious that others should wash up the dish, and every time the Government are anxious to get into a minority the Front Opposition Bench votes for them. The Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition do not want to be forced into office at the present juncture. That is really the present position of affairs. The right hon. Gentleman has asked for these Tuesday sittings, and he has used all this kind of abuse, but I do not suppose that there is anyone more tired of the right hon. Gentleman's Government than himself. We see this unfortunate Government, though they have only normally been one session in office, more weak, limp, and jaded than any other Government I have ever known. Why does not the right hon. Gentleman tell us what his Irish programme is at the present stage? It is not the Nationalists that he is afraid of at all, for he knows perfectly well that we are ready and anxious to further any legislation of a useful character for Ireland. He is afraid of the hon. Gentlemen on his own side, who are never willing to take up useful legislation for Ireland in the month of April. If any such legislation were introduced in April the Orange and landlord party would tear it to pieces, and it is only when this House is thoroughly jaded and tired that you can have Irish legislation brought in, when hon. Members think that the holidays are more important than legislation. Why does the Leader of the House not communicate with the Leader of the Irish Party as to what his plans are? We know that there is only one Bill to be passed for Ireland this session so far as the Government is concerned. Is it not easy to say, "We will bring forward this excellent Bill; here it is. We dare not show it to the Orange party, for we cannot trust them, but we can trust the Nationalists." The right hon. Gentleman has practically admitted that the business of the House is really done behind the Chair and not upon the floor of the House. The real difficulty is that the Government do not take into their confidence that section of the House which was not represented on the Civil List Committee.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he wished to make his humble protest against what had been proposed by the First Lord of the Treasury, and his reason for so doing was that he belonged to a section of humble Members of this House who did not say much and who did not get much chance of saying anything. Members of the House might be divided into one-column men, half-column men, quarter-column men, and one-line men. On behalf of the one-line men, he protested against the First Lord of the Treasury taking away the only chance they had of making themselves heard. The way in which Bills were brought into the House of Commons reminded him of the American incubator, where they put the eggs in at one end and the chickens came out at the other. When Bills were brought forward the one-column men had their innings, and the one-line men never got any innings at all. In earlier days the First Lord of the Treasury had been only a one-line man, and he ought to look back with some affection to those days and remember that one-line men wanted a chance occasionally. If the right hon. Gentleman required more time, let him bring forward a Home Rule Bill, and let the Irish Members go home to manage their own affairs. So long as they sat in this House they would do their best for their constituencies, and they would do it whether they were closured or not. The First Lord of the Treasury was now proposing to take away about the only chance they had got of laying their grievances before this House in a proper form, and he trusted the motion would be withdrawn.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said he did not desire to detain the House more than one or two moments, but he wished, as a new Member, to add his protest against the action of the First Lord of the Treasury upon this question. During this session the new Members had more than once tried to help the Government to carry through the business of the country. The First Lord of the Treasury now asked for all the Tuesdays up to Whitsuntide, and gave no reason at all which appealed to new Members for doing so. A debate followed, and Members on this and on the other side of the House had put specific questions to the right hon. Gentleman. He had been asked whether he would help private Members to keep a House on Tuesdays, and they had very good reason for asking that, because on the last Friday when the private Members got a chance they would remember that the Government walked behind the Chair in order that a count might be taken, and the right hon. Gentleman himself was one of those who walked behind the Chair. Having disposed of the motions, there was a very small Bill brought before the House which endeavoured to give some——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now going into the case of a particular Bill in a manner that is not relevant.

*Mr. CORRIE GRANT said he had no intention of discussing that Bill, and he was only endeavouring to show why some of them were anxious to keep a House that night. They had very good reason for asking the right hon. Gentleman whether he was going to follow this course again, and whether, after they had come down to the House from two o'clock to seven o'clock to help through the Government legislation they were going to have any help from the Government to keep a House. Were they going to give facilities for the Children's Bill, or for Higher Education, which some of them cared about if the right hon. Gentleman did not? The Member for Forest of Dean had inquired what was going to be done with regard to the Factory Acts. The right hon. Gentleman, in his reply, did not devote a single word to dealing with the questions which had been asked him. He had delivered an adroit and brilliant speech which was everything but what a speech ought to be on such a question from the Leader of the House. He (the hon. Member) knew very little—— [Ministerial cries of "Hear, hear."] Would hon. Members opposite kindly allow him to finish his sentence? He knew very little about the Leadership of the House, but there were two duties acknowledged to be foremost among the duties of a Leader: the first was so to arrange the business that the legislation could be carried forward easily and quickly, and he ventured to say that when the Leader of the House endeavoured to do this he always got the assistance of the House. What was the course pursued by a former Leader of the House—the late Mr. W. H. Smith—who had not half the debating ability of the present First Lord of the Treasury? He took the House into his confidence, told them what he wanted to do, and how he proposed to do it. He did not keep up his sleeve the measures he intended bringing before the House, and he got the assistance of the House. The second duty of the Leader of the House was to protect the rights of all the Members on all sides of the House, and he very seriously complained of the conduct of the right hon. Gentleman for the manner in which he walked out of the House the other night. He claimed that private Members ought to have the assistance of the Leader of the House in order to keep a House. The example set by the right hon. Gentleman did more to destroy the rights of private Members than all the polite and courteous speeches which he was always making about his desire to help private Members. He hoped that before they went to a division they would have a statement of the attitude the right hon. Gentleman was going to take up with regard to Tuesday nights. If they found that he was not going to protect the rights of private Members, he hoped hon. Members would take the matter into their own hands and set their faces sternly against the attempt to take the whole time of the House for Government business.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he had often heard a similar motion made in this House from the Government Benches, but never one made in a more cavalier manner than the motion made by the First Lord of the Treasury that evening; and he was not surprised at the manifestations of impatience which had been exhibited by hon. Gentlemen on the Conservative side of the House, because the example had been set them by their own chief. He would like to discover how many hon. Gentlemen opposite had humbugged their constituents by pretending they were going to produce legislation, and who had introduced large numbers of Bills to which they had referred at public meetings in their constituencies, and which they were presently going to prevent from being proceeded with by voting for the motion before the House. Of course the usual excuse would be forthcoming, that but for the Irish Members the measures would have been passed. He would next day take out from the division lists the names of all those Members who had so humbugged their constituents. The First Lord of the Treasury had stated that but for the Irish Members, the irregular opposition, the Government would have had time to pass the necessary financial business of the session. Why was not Parliament called together before? Why were the holidays so long? and why all this waste of time? In all our great colonies there was no trouble, and there was no necessity to take private Members' time. In the colonies one seldom heard of all-night sittings. Why? Because they conducted the Legislature on business lines, and met at a reasonable hour in the morning, and the hours at which the Parliaments met were not arranged merely for the convenience of Members who liked to be up late at night and sleep till late on in the day. He hoped when the right hon. Gentleman took this matter in hand, as he had threatened to do (and he hoped he would do it on a nearly day), that he would say that this House should meet at a reasonable hour—9–30 or ten o'clock in the morning—like men engaged in any other work, and that the House should cease its labours at a reasonable hour, so as to give an honest and plain interval to Members of the House to feed.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question before the House is not what interval shall be allowed for dinner.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he would not suggest any further alterations; he would merely say that the impatience manifested in the House, with the most surprising regularity, between 7–30 and nine, was not due to any burning interest which the Members took in the matter under discussion in the House on which they desired to vote. It was not because on the present occasion they were most anxious to destroy the only chance they had of passing Bills which they themselves had introduced—it was for quite a different reason, the same reason that had caused him to intervene. It was due to the fact that the hours of the House were so wrong, and the Rules so incongruous and absurd, that Members could not go home to their dinners without feeling that something dreadful would happen in their absence. He quite conceived that this was a motion which the First Lord of the Treasury should be called upon by the country to explain. If the motion was carried, it would in all probability kill the Bill for the purpose of prohibiting the sale of drink to young children, and the Eight Hours Bill for miners, and if the time of the private Members was to be taken, then it should be made clear to the people of the country that it was done by those who voted for it for the express purpose of killing legislation. Let hon. Members be honest, and say they did not believe in legislation, and were prepared to let the Government have as much time as they pleased. If they took that straightforward and honest course, he ventured to hope that when the next General Election came round a great number of them would be relieved from attendance at the House of Commons for evermore.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 198; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 130.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy.Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bagot,Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird,John George Alexander
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Gl'sg'w
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Denny, Colonel
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt.Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden,Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs,Hon.AGH(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary (St.Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, J. (Staffords, N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hope,J.F.(Sheffi'ld,Brightside
Howard, John (Kent, Fav'rsh.
Howard, J.(Midd.,Tottenham
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.SirJohn H.
Kenyon, Jas. (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Madona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.H.L.B.(Cams.
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnAGraham(Bute
Murray,Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn.Wm.Robt.Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col.Samuel Alexander
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,RtHn.Col.Edw.J.
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith,HC(North'um.Tynes'de
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon.W.F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, ColonelWilliamGeorge
Welby,Lt.Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Whiteley,H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams,RtHnJ.Powell-(Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P.(Glouc.,Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Tandal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M.(Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst.
Evans, Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt.Hon.Herb.John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir (MerthyrTydv'l
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Slr James
Jones, William (Carnarvons.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morley,Rt.Hn.John(Montrose
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,SirR.Threshie(Dumfries)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt HnC.R.(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Thomas,J A(Glamorgan Gower
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Warner,Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White,Patrick (Meath,North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)

Tellers for the Noes—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

Question put accordingly, "That until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday at Two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to such Morning Sittings."

The House divided:—Ayes, 192; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 131.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird,John George Alexander
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry,SirFrancis T.(Windsor)
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell,RtHn.J.A(Glasgow

Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, T.R.(T'rH'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, HnA.G.H.(City of Lond
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lorn G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (Lond'nd'ry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Heath, James (Staffords. N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffi'ld, Brightside
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverp'l)
M'Calmont, Col. H. L. B. (Camb.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J. (Walthamst.
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (North'mb. Tynes'e
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith. Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell-(Birm
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc. Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Boand, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delaney, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.

Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. (Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. CharlesH.
Holland, William Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mather, William
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMd
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,SirR.Threshie(Dumfries)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott,Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Sinclair,Capt.John(Forfarsh'e
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHn.C.R(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Warner,Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White,Patrick(Meath,North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

Resolved, That until Whitsuntide the House do meet on Tuesday, at Two of the clock, and that the provisions of Standing Order No. 56 be extended to such Morning Sittings.

NEW BILL.

VAGRANTS' CHILDREN PROTECTION.

Bill for the further protection of the Children of Vagrants, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Warr, Mr. Yerburgh, Mr. John Burns, and Mr. Hay.

VAGRANTS' CHILDREN PROTECTION BILL.

"For the further protection of the Children of Vagrants," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday 30th April, and to be printed. [Bill 145.]

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

LOAN.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March nineteen hundred and two, sums not exceeding sixty million pounds may be raised by all or any of the following methods:—

(a) by means of the creation of two and three-quarter per cent. Consolidated Stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888; or

(b) by means of the issue of further War Stock or War Bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or

(c) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills; or

(d) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds;

and that the principal of, and interest on, any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund.

That all expenses incurred in connection with raising the said sums, including any additional remuneration to the Banks of England and Ireland, be charged on the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) reminded the House that when the Vote of £10,000,000 was asked for last session he opposed it, on the grounds that the amount was totally insufficient, and that it was impossible accurately to forecast the amount of money which would be required. The views he then expressed had been borne out by what had occurred, and Ireland had the same objection to sharing the fresh burdens now proposed as on the former occasion. In addition to the war expenditure the Estimates were characterised by enormous extravagance in almost every Department of State. If a Member criticised any portion of the Government's proposals he was looked upon as an enemy of the country, with the result that the expenditure progressed with fearful rapidity. This absolute want of economy had brought about a position that the National Debt amounted to £687,797,000, an amount larger than the National Debt of any other civilised State. It was a mistaken financial system to draw cheques on posterity in order to gratify the desires of certain individuals who desired to make war on unoffending nations. The annual expenditure was now £187,000,000, and a larger expenditure was incurred in regard to the Army and Navy than in France and Germany. The Imperial taxation had almost reached the limits which the people could bear. The only security for the enormous National Debt was Great Britain's commercial supremacy. It would therefore be necessary to take those facts into consideration. He held the opinion that England was living upon its capital. The imports were enormously increasing, and the supremacy of Great Britain as a commercial nation was gradually vanishing, and owing to the peculiar system of taxation the foreigner selling goods in this country paid nothing towards this enormous amount of £187,000,000, the burden of which fell mainly upon the native producer. He did not propose to discuss at any great length free trade, fair trade, or protection, but would ask the attention of the House to the points most germane to the question. The Government did not appear to know their own mind, and were pursuing a zig-zag policy to obtain the end they had in view. Whilst on the one hand there was an import duty levied on sugar, on the other there was an export duty to be levied on coal. So far as he individually was concerned, he was opposed to export duties altogether. He was a free trader, but the policy of England was free imports not free trade, and therefore he maintained there ought to be a reasonable duty put upon all manufactured articles coming into this country.

England had been prosperous in spite of free trade. In principle he was a free trader, but in theory and practice there was sometimes a very wide divergence, and what was called free trade in this country was not in reality free trade. He reiterated it was a policy of free imports, and the result, he maintained, was to lessen employment at home and destroy native agriculture. If Cobden and Bright and those who advocated free trade for this country could return to the scene of their labours, they would not recognise the policy which was called by their name. The Government taxed many imported articles, and the articles most heavily taxed were those consumed by the poor. A resolution had been passed to tax sugar. Why not put a moderate import duty on butter, and enable home producers to give work to labourers? The result of allowing the free importation of flour, so far as Ireland was concerned, was that there was not a river in the country capable at the present time of running a mill profitably, and no doubt the same statement was equally true with regard to England. Why not give the millers and farmers and labourers a chance against the foreigner who neither contributes to rent, rates, revenue, nor employment. The cost of production had been so lowered that foreign manufactured goods were being sold at less money than they could be produced in Ireland, which must necessarily do away with a considerable amount of the labour of the country. Goods made in German prisons were brought over and sold in open competition with articles made by free labour, and some effort should be made to keep convict-made goods in their own nation.

As the imports were increasing and the exports decreasing, the land was being allowed to go to waste. The National Debt and the expenditure of the country was enormously increasing, whilst at the same time the employment in the country was decreasing, and the commercial supremacy of England gradually vanishing. Where was the security for the National Debt? Where was this enormous annual charge of £187,000,000 to come from in future? The position of this country was that if foreign supplies of food were stopped it would be starved in between three and six weeks. Was that a satisfactory state of affairs? Commercial supremacy had kept up this country, but that state of things was changing. There was a time when America imported into this country raw material; they now sent in the manufactured article, and beat you in your own markets. Liverpool got its electric plant from Germany, whilst Glasgow, the greatest iron manufacturing district in Great Britain, had lately been importing steel rails from America. The American manufacturers were absorbing nearly all your foreign markets. Where was it going to end? The Manchester school of thought, which looked upon anything like an attack upon free trade as a sort of commercial suicide, may cry out, but the fact remained that the colonies were protected against the Mother Country. They had been obliged to protect themselves; it was the only way they had to raise revenue. Yet so-called free-traders could not see that every country in the world was banded against it. According to the views of English economists, it should not have been possible for America and Germany to progress and prosper under protection; but the Americans had changed the character of their exports from raw material to manufactured goods, and at the same time immensely increased the exports, whilst diminishing their imports. He did not advocate protection in the rigid sense of the word, but he would advocate that upon all manufactured articles a moderate duty should be paid. It appeared to him that nobody had the courage to face the problem. Foreigners were not only allowed to import into this country articles free of duty, but they were actually protected by preferential railway rates. Some time ago the rate per ton for the carriage of native meat on the London and North Western Railway was 50s., whilst the rate for foreign meat was 25s., so that practically foreign meat was bounty-fed, so jar as the London and North Western Railway was concerned, to the extent of 25s. a ton. The same state of things existed with regard to foreign imports at the present time on all the railways in the three kingdoms. These great private monopolies, aided by the State, actually gave a bounty to foreigners to bring their goods to the markets which should belong to the producers of this country. In Germany the State railways had realised a profit of £23,200,000, which was applied to the reduction of taxation in Germany. In New Zealand, where the colony also owned the railways, they made a profit on the railways of no less than £2,500,000. This was not the only advantage derived by the colonies and countries like Germany, where the State owned the railways; there was not only the advantage of low rates and the profit and the reduction of taxation, but also the fact that there was a realisable asset as security for the National Debt, which England did not possess. The policy of this Parliament seemed to be to place power in the hands of these great carrying companies, who controlled the House of Commons, and through them the country, and he hoped the views he expressed would receive consideration.

In conclusion, he would say it was a wrong system to pay our debts by drawing cheques upon posterity. The Chancellor of the Exchequer did not like the idea of war loans, and, if he could have managed it financially, would have infinitely preferred to have met the expenditure as it came along out of income; but if the extraordinary extravagance of expenditure was to be allowed to continue, and private Members were to be closured and prevented from discussing the Estimates, then they had arrived at a condition of things when all financial business was to be engineered by the Front Bench, and when wholesome agitation and criticism from the House would enable the right hon. Gentleman to exercise a certain amount of control over the Treasury with regard to what was called national expenditure. It was for such reasons that he had criticised the proposal to obtain this money by means of a war loan. He did not propose to enter into the protest of the shipping interest regarding the coal tax, which he thought would create grave cause of complaint in Ireland against the Mercantile Marine, because the Mercantile Marine was protected by the British Navy, to which Ireland had to contribute far more than its share, and the business of the Mercantile Marine was to collect and carry produce from all parts of the world and bring it over at cheap rates to British markets in competition with Irish produce. He had no desire to see the price of food raised, but Ireland could not live out of the profits of English manufacture. Englishmen could not live out of the profits of manufacture, but must have a certain amount of agriculture. The burden of taxation ought to be put upon the shoulders of those who were best able to bear it, and foreign manufactured articles ought to take their share. He could not vote for the war loan. He felt, as an Irishman, that they were obliged to pay a far larger amount of money than their share of the taxation which would be levied in various directions, and he suggested that some arrangements ought to be made to lessen the burdens so far as Ireland was concerned. He drew attention to the fact that the income tax was originally only to be levied in certain parts of Ireland for a certain period, and that it was a very exceptional tax, and it would be an act of simple justice on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he would arrange that an amount equal to that levied through income tax in Ireland should be returned to that country in the shape of grants for reproductive purposes.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I am not quite sure that the House would be entirely prudent in leaving to the Chancellor of the Exchequer such a large choice with regard to the manner in which the loan is to be raised. The first method proposed is by means of the creation of Two-and-Three-Quarter per Cent. Consolidated Stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888. I do not know what price the Chancellor of the Exchequer will obtain for sixty millions of 2½ per cent. Consols; it may possibly only be 91 or 92.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): 89.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES: An hon. Member says 89; that surely would not be a very profitable bargain. The other methods are by means of the issue of further war stock or war bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or (*c*) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills; or (*d*) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds; and that the principal of and interest on any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund. I am not convinced that the right hon. Gentleman would be perfect in his choice of method which all these opportunities open to him. Great complaint was made of his manner of dealing with the last loan without adequate notice, and his selection of American financiers, and at the time of the Greek loan, secured by France, Russia, and this country, the right hon. Gentleman so contrived that English contributors to the loan paid 1 per cent. more for their contributions than either the French or Russian contributors. Now I come to the Budget. This is the most appalling Budget I have ever seen. I do not say so by way of blame; it was inevitable. It is appalling not only on account of the enormous amount but also on account of the entire absence of any promise or probability of any reduction next year or any succeeding year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer confesses to an expenditure of £187,000,000, but that is not the whole of the expenditure. It is one of my complaints that our public accounts are deliberately falsified and that people are deceived, and I am obliged to correct the right hon. Gentleman. The Chancellor of the Exchequer puts the Exchequer expenditure at £187,600,000, but to that sum we must add the nine or ten millions which the right hon. Gentleman intercepts for local purposes, and also the eight or nine millions of appropriations in aid. That eighteen millions is part of the national expenditure, though it is concealed by the form in which the accounts are kept, and brings the Exchequer expenditure up to £205,000,000. But apart from that there is the local expenditure, which is at least £100,000,000, so that in the coming year the total expenditure will be £300,000,000. The National Debt is stated to have been increased by £59,000,000, and now stands at £688,000,000; but that is not all, there is a further sum of £14,700,000 which the right hon. Gentleman describes as reproductive moneys, so that the National Debt has actually been increased to £702,000,000. That, added to the local debt, which is certainly not less than £300,000,000, makes the total debt of this country £1,000,000,000. These figures are appalling and point to a most alarming prospect, to a state of things which will be extremely difficult for any Chancellor of the Exchequer to handle. At the present time it has been a very difficult matter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is far from diminishing the gravity of the facts he laid before the House last night; in fact he had a tendency to exaggerate rather than to diminish the gravity of the situation. I was struck by the tone of the Chancellor of the Exchequer rather than by his remarks. He seemed to have come to the House for the purpose of washing his hands of his colleagues. The right hon. Gentleman says that his colleagues are to blame for all this, but I am not quite so sure of that. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is not entirely without blame, for he must share the responsibility. From the year 1895 to 1899 there was a swelling revenue, and we had surpluses every year. But from 1899 up to the present time it has been a very different story indeed. It is Pharaoh's dream over again. In the years of prosperity the right hon. Gentleman squandered the surpluses that he had, and he would not allow scarcely a farthing to go towards the reduction of the debt. There was nobody to whom he would not give a million, and he was a most extravagant Chancellor of the Exchequer. He not only squandered all the surpluses, but he also laid hands upon the Sinking Fund, a thing which shocked every sound financier. Therefore it could not be said that he was entirely without blame in the matter. It is like the case of the seven well favoured fat fleshed kine and the seven ill favoured lean fleshed kine in Pharaoh's dream. But Pharaoh has awoke, and the prospect is that which the right hon. Gentleman has placed before the House with such great courage, candour, self-denial and readiness. I have never been an absolutely unqualified admirer of the finance of the right hon. Gentleman. I think that when he has in any way departed from the lessons of the great masters of finance he has followed the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, and whenever he has done things out of his own head he has often been on the verge of failure. I think he was on the verge of failure when he removed the tobacco duty, a step which he said would bring in a golden harvest, but which he afterwards admitted brought in no harvest at all. He was mistaken also with regard to the Greek Loan. I know that the right hon. Gentleman has the courage of his opinions, and he is not afraid to profess and openly avow to the full extent every proposal that he makes. I for one was sorry to note a sort of tone about him last night as though he was looking forward to defeat upon his Budget, and to a removal of himself from his present sphere of usefulness. Of course the first reason that occurs to one to account for this appalling Budget is the war; but that is not the only reason. Even what the right hon. Gentleman calls the normal expenditure has so increased that he was obliged to say last night that, even apart from the war, he would not be able to give us any remission of taxation.

Putting that aside, I come to the war. I think that in the history of English Government there never has been such a series of miscalculations and falsified promises as those which have arisen in connection with this war. We look to the English Government, who are supposed to be in possession of full and secret information of all sorts from all over the field, for the formation and announcement to us of an adequate opinion as to the probable extent and cost of any undertaking in which they are about to engage. We also look to the Government for proper and adequate financial provision for such undertakings. The Government had full information with regard to this war. It is not disputed that their Intelligence Department had provided them with absolutely correct information as to the whole of the Boer armaments, and as to their preparations for war, but the Government failed to comprehend that information. This reminds me of the wise man who said—

> "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, but with all thy getting get understanding."

The Government had the wisdom but not the understanding. They knew the facts, but they were incapable of appreciating them. The result is that in consequence we have to face this enormous Budget. From the very beginning there was, and even up to yesterday there has been, a most extraordinary and a most noticeable optimism on the part of Her Majesty's Government as to the duration and the conduct of the war. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was, up to yesterday, always telling us that the war was going to end before the next time he had to face the House of Commons. He was always explaining to us that his financial demands, which might appear heavy, were purely temporary, and he was always telling us that he would get a large share of the expense out of the Transvaal. In September last the right hon. Gentleman believed that the war was entirely over, that we were in possession of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and that we had obtained possession of them at the cheapest rate ever heard of in history. He made a speech to his constituents in Bristol to that effect. He said on the 29th of September last year—

> "If they considered that from small increases in taxation the country had been able to bring to a conclusion one of the greatest wars—perhaps the greatest war—in which it had been engaged since the early part of the century, he thought they would be satisfied that the Government had not extravagantly wasted the resources of the country. . . . . We had added a territory of vast value to the Empire without imposing on it a greater burden than it could bear. He believed that with a fair field and no favour English manufactures could beat the world, and it was in that belief and looking to the union it had brought about between them and their great colonial possessions he felt that even the war in South Africa would prove in the end to be a blessing to their country."

I am only quoting this to show that the right hon. Gentleman on the 29th of September last believed that the war was ended, and shared the extraordinary optimism which His Majesty's Government has shown in regard to it. I have not shared that optimism from the beginning. On the 27th of October, 1899, I warned the House that this would be one of the most unexampled conflicts for its importance and seriousness within living memory. I warned the House that we should have disasters and reverses. I told the House that we were dealing with courageous and capable adversaries, and that the House must be prepared for a long war. I know that I was rebuked at the time by the hon. Gentleman the Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield and the Member for the Kirkdale Division of Liverpool, and I was told that I was uttering ridiculous nonsense. When I found the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 29th of September declaring that the war was ended, and that we had annexed these two States at a very cheap rate, I began to think that I had been a false prophet. I told my constituents what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said, that the war was ended, and I got elected. [Opposition cheers.] Alas! it was not myself who was the false prophet, but the false prophet was a person in a higher position than myself. Even now, many months after the 29th of September last, we find Sir Alfred Milner, in February last, saying that he can foresee no definite point of time at which we can consider peace in sight, and he even declares that during the last six months things have retrogressed. So that even at this moment, long after the 29th of September, when the General Election has long been passed and a new Cabinet has been formed, mainly consisting of the ablest family in the country, we are still as far off as ever from any ability to name the precise moment when we shall be able to say to ourselves in truth what the Chancellor of the Exchequer said to his constituents in September last, that the war in South Africa is over. But if the military authorities miscalculated the military aspect of the war, surely the Chancellor of the Exchequer must take to himself no small amount of blame for having so seriously miscalculated the financial aspects of the problem. He has never ceased to tell us that he expected to get a large amount towards the war from the Transvaal. He began to tell us that in October, 1899, at the time I was warning the House that the war would be a long and costly one. He told us that he meant to get a large proportion, or at least a considerable portion of the cost, from the Transvaal, and if possible the whole of it. On the 6th of March he said—

> "I look for the cost of the war first to the Transvaal, and then I look to the other sources of revenue which I have named."

I did not even then share his view of the financial possibility of getting money out of the Transvaal, and I ventured then to tell him that he would never get anything at all unless he got it as voluntary contributions from the mines. Therefore it will be seen that in 1900 the right hon. Gentleman believed we should get a substantial contribution from the Transvaal to the cost of the war; but in 1901, after having sent out an expert to obtain evidence as to the precise amount of this financial contribution, he presents to us now a picture of a ruined country and a bankrupt people. He says to-day that it is a hopeless case, and all he has to say about this substantial contribution, upon which he based his system of finance, is, "We will keep alive our claim"—a claim against a ruined country and a bankrupt people. Is it not childish? I think in this part of his speech the right hon. Gentleman showed a little want of that candour and courage which he displayed when he was dealing with the shortcomings of the rest of his colleagues.

Now I come to the specific proposals of this Budget. First of all I will take the income tax. My belief is that there is no tax in the world so good as the income tax, if it is levied equally and fairly all round. Let no man tell me that the working man would not cheerfully pay his share of the income tax. I am convinced that the working man is as ready to pay income tax as any man in this country, and more ready to pay any tax that he is persuaded is required by his country, whether a tax of money or of blood. But you must not surround the tax with such conditions as obtain at the present time. The same sum which is produced by an income tax of 1s. would be produced by an income tax of 4d., if instead of only taxing equally all incomes over £700, as you do now, and granting abatements and total exemption to the rest, you were to tax the whole of them equally, and devise a simple and convenient method of collection of the smaller sums. My belief is that this is not beyond the possibility of achievement by a Chancellor of the Exchequer. At present you charge incomes over £700 1s. 2d. in the £, because you think that other people would not be willing to pay an income tax of 3d. or 4d. in the £. I do not believe this. I believe that if you will make the payment easy to the working man he would be ready to contribute towards any reasonable object, and I believe he would be perfectly ready to contribute towards the war in South Africa, and to pay his 3d. or 4d. in the £ as willingly as anybody else. I think this is the true doctrine of fiscality, that your object should be, not to get large sums from a small number of people over a small area, but you should base your finances upon a system of getting a large number of small contributions from a large number of people spread over a large area, by simple methods. This is the true method, and it is the method which you already pursue in the Post Office. There it is your penny stamp that produces the enormous revenue of £13,000,000 or £14,000,000 without any danger or trouble to anybody. I commend that process to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for I believe it to be the true one, and in future I hope he will try, not to levy large contributions upon a small number of people, but seek more to levy small contributions upon a larger number. So long as this tax is so unequally levied, and abatements and exemptions are allowed, so long as you impose this tax in this way, I think it imprudent, and it is bad finance, to add to the tax itself, while leaving its incidence so partial and unequal. The average income-tax payer is indeed not a person who will openly complain, and the burden of the income tax will be more or less silently borne; but it will not be borne without resentment, which may, upon some future occasion, transform itself into open hostility to the Government. I come now to the sugar duty. There I see a more dangerous experiment. I do not understand what polarisation means. We have had no explanation of it. I do not understand what is to be ascertained by the instrument. Is it the essential part of sugar, which I believe is called sucrose? [An HON. MEMBER: "Glucose."] No, I believe the essential part is called sucrose. Saccharin is a different thing, which makes you think you are taking sugar. I do not understand what polarisation is intended to ascertain. Is it intended to ascertain the amount of the essential part of sugar which I have called sucrose, just as we ascertain the amount of alcohol in wine and spirits? It appears to be an incomplete method, but I pass that for the moment, and what I come to is this—the price of the lowest quality of sugar in this country at present is, I believe, 1¼d. Now that same sugar is imported from Hamburg, and at Hamburg it costs about 3d. The difference between the 3d. and the 1¼d. is paid for us in the shape of a bounty by the foreign country, and thus we get cheap sugar at the cost of the foreign taxpayer. We pay 1¼d. and he pays the other 1¾d., and it is in consequence of the great influx of cheap sugar that a considerable number of important new industries have grown up, and are still growing up in this country. We must all have observed the great increase in confectionery and sweetmeats, but what we may not have observed is that the British manufacturer of preserved fruits is positively driving the native out of the market in places like Germany, Spain, and France, and the reason is the extraordinary cheapness of sugar here. Now mark the result. You are going to put, broadly speaking, ½d. per pound on sugar. Don't you think that foreign countries, who have been intending for some time to alter the bounty system, will take this opportunity of getting rid of their bounties—in other words, of depriving our sugar of the contribution of 1¾d. per pound which they now make? They have now, I think, the opportunity of doing a bad turn to England, and it is extremely likely that the imposition of this ½d. per pound may lead to the 1¾d. bounty being abandoned by the foreign country. If so, the result will be that our sugar, instead of being 1¼d. per pound, will be 3½d. per pound. That would be sufficient to kill the whole of these young industries. They are vigorous and enterprising industries, which have sprung up owing to the cheapness of sugar. They are young, and they will fight, and let the Chancellor of the Exchequer believe what I say—they will not have their trade destroyed, as it may be, or injured, as it surely will be by the tax, without a struggle. I am warning the Chancellor of the Exchequer to expect opposition. I have myself received strenuous representations begging me to oppose the duty on sugar, and although I am accustomed to do what I think right without much regard to representations from outside, I am free to say it does add to the difficulty I have in voting for the sugar resolution of the Government.

I have only one thing more to say, and that is in regard to the proposed export duty of 1s. per ton on coal. That, I think, is the most important, and I venture to say the most unfortunate proposal of the whole Budget. Will the House bear with me while I read a statement on export duties in general by one of the best of the economic writers—I mean Dr. Bastable. There is no doubt that an export duty is a relic of barbarism. There is no kind of duty that so dislocates trade, introduces such confusion into the operations of commerce, or is so extremely doubtful in its effects in the incidence of the duty and the damage caused. Dr. Bastable says—

> "As employed in mediæval times"—

It is astonishing how the mediæval argument resembles the argument used by the right hon. Gentleman last night—

> "As employed in mediæval times it was intended partly to tax those foreigners who used the staple product of the country, and partly as an impost on the producers or owners of natural agents. It is evident that the incidence of the tax will vary according to the

> position of the article taxed. That the home traders will try to raise the price is certain, but their success in this endeavour will depend on (1) the extent to which outside competition is possible, and (2) the need that foreigners have for the article. Where several sources of supply exist the effect of taxing one will be to turn demand to the others, and where increased price checks demand it tends to bring about a fall. Thus it may be said, that in most cases the export duty is chiefly paid by the country that imposes it. Unless the country has a complete monopoly of the product, and the foreign demand remains unaffected by a rise of price, the whole burden cannot be transferred to the consumers. This case is, it need not be said, rarely found, but an approximation to it will partly pass the tax to the foreign consumers. Still, as a practical result, the bulk of the duty falls immediately on the producers of the taxed product, though it might be shifted by them to the owners of land, skilled labour, or fixed capital concerned in the business. A large number of export duties might even by diminishing foreign trade lower the rates of wages and interest generally."

It is always the producer concerned in the business who has to suffer, according to Dr. Bastable, and I entirely agree with him. I believe there is no duty more mischievous in its indirect effects than an export duty. You have to double the task of the preventive staff. They have to look after not only what comes into the country, but what goes out. It changes the character of your preventive service in respect that it doubles the aspect. Now as to this coal tax. The right hon. Gentleman proposes to except bunker coal. What is bunker coal? According to the view of the trade, bunker coal usually is intended to mean coal carried in bunkers for the use of the ship; but that is not the view the right hon. Gentleman takes. But how is the amount of bunker coal a ship is to carry to be fixed? How is bunker coal to be defined? I have never seen nor heard any definition that would include bunker coal and exclude all other coal. There is another question I want to ask. Is the duty to be levied on coal shipped in one English port to be delivered in another English port? [Sir M. Hicks Beach shook his head.] I presumed it would not. I am right there. Is it to be levied on coal shipped at an English port for an English possession. [Sir M. Hicks Beach: -Yes.] It is well to observe the result. A foreign ship takes bunker coal at Cardiff and pays nothing on that coal, but an English ship goes for coals at Malta and pays 1s. per ton on that coal. You give an advantage to foreign ships bunkering in England. You give them an advantage over the native. If the duty is to be levied on the coal you send from an English port to a British possession, it is certainly a very new departure indeed. The Secretary for the Colonies, whose absence during this interesting discussion I much deplore, proposed to give the colonies special advantages by customs and fiscal regulations, and he even suggested entering into an Imperial Zollverein, with a view to a closer connection with them. This tax places the colonies at a greater disadvantage, and tends rather to disunion than to union.

In the case of the Sugar Tax, what we are to look to is the essential thing, namely, the sucrose. I will use that term while waiting for another from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the case of coal it is coal you are going to tax, but it takes three tons of coal to make a ton of iron, and consequently when you are exporting a ton of iron you are exporting three tons of coal. I know that is refining the argument, but what is good for one product in the way of taxing the essential thing is, I submit, good for another. But that is not my real and main objection. I will take one example. This tax, I think, will act most prejudicially in the case of certain places abroad. Gibraltar is one of the most important of our mercantile coaling stations. It supplies from 500,000 to 600,000 tons of coal to merchant ships in the year. The competition is very keen indeed between the coaling stations at Algiers and Gibraltar. Sometimes Algiers gets the upper hand, as in 1893, when the amount supplied at Gibraltar fell to 300,000 because of the competition. So great importance does the Government attach to the coaling at Gibraltar that in the year 1895–6 they agreed to spend £700,000 on the creation of a coaling mole, of which the Gibraltar merchants are to pay out of the profits of the coal trade £400,000. If you are going to put 1s. per ton on the coal that goes to Gibraltar, and if Gibraltar continues to use 500,000 tons per annum, you are putting a very large tax on Gibraltar. If you are going to put a tax on Gibraltar coal and expose it to the keener competition of Algiers, you may increase the price of coal at Gibraltar, and ruin the coal trade there altogether, rendering it impossible for the coal merchants to pay the £400,000, and you may find that you have expended £700,000 without any prospect of getting the £400,000 you expect in diminution of the amount. If it is thus at Gibraltar I think it probably may be the same in other cases. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said—

> "This coal is exported, as I have shown, mainly to ports in Europe and the Mediterranean. They are short voyages. If the merchant chooses he can devote more bunker-space in his ship to coal and less to his cargo, and escape the duty altogether."

But the shipowner only carries coal for the sake of carrying cargo, and to say that he may escape the tax by carrying more coal and less cargo is like saying that if a bird had more wings and less stomach it would be very much lighter. But merchants and shipowners cannot be dealt with as if they were Cherubim and Seraphim. If they want wings to fly with, they also want something to sit down upon. I cannot imagine where the Chancellor of the Exchequer got the notion. But he has suggested one still more amusing fallacy as regards coal. He said—

> "I think the law should be framed so as to enable a person who had made a contract here to break his contract, unless the person with whom he made the contract abroad were willing to pay the 1s. duty. That is the effect of the action of the Act of last year, but practically the duty has to be added to the price agreed upon, so the person who might take the delivery of the coal would not pay out of his own pocket."

I really think that a doctrine of that kind, coming from a Chancellor of the Exchequer, was never heard of in this House before. If you have made a contract for coal with a foreigner you are to break the contract unless the foreigner will agree to pay the extra shilling per ton which it has pleased the Chancellor of the Exchequer to impose on coal—an amazing and impossible doctrine. I think he can scarcely have considered what he said at that moment, and I am quite sure that on reconsidering it he will see that is a kind of doctrine that cannot be acted upon. It would be entirely idle to put such a clause in an Act of Parliament. Now, the whole effect of what I have been saying comes to this. I do earnestly beg and implore His Majesty's Government to drop this duty on coal. I believe if they adhere to it, it will get them into serious trouble at home, and the reason I urge so strenuously that they should abandon it is really largely this—in my opinion, it is of the greatest importance that this Government should stay in office until the war is over. It has no right to imperil its own existence. It appealed to the country to give it a majority to finish the war, and whatever its difficulty may be, and whatever differences may be found within its own ranks, it cannot abdicate its position. The reason it cannot abdicate its position is because there is nothing over there (pointing to the Front Opposition Bench). I should not feel all the anxiety I do, nor express with so much earnestness my desire to maintain the precious life of His Majesty's Government, were it not that I see no alternative Government *in esse* or *in posse*, and scarcely the chief of a possible Government. Therefore, I look with the greatest possible apprehension on the situation, knowing that His Majesty's Government may be diminishing their popularity and diminishing their support in large portions of the coal mining districts, and possibly imperilling their existence, because I do feel that after this Government we shall be in the presence of something like political chaos. It is for this reason that I have risen to make these remarks, which were longer than I intended. I thank the House for listening to me. I do earnestly beg His Majesty's Government not to invite danger, not to invite disaffection and loss of seats, small majorities, and all those accidents which are the preludes to the dissolution of a Government, by persisting in the coal tax, which is new-fangled and mischievous, and which cannot fail injuriously to affect the industry of the country.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said that as one who had strenuously and consistently opposed the war, not only after it commenced, but in anticipation of it, he was able to look with a considerable amount of equanimity at the consternation exhibited by hon. Members on the other side who strenuously supported the Government and egged them on to the war. Now, when they are asked to pay for the war they begin to whine of the danger to their seats. They ought to have considered that before they egged the Government on to the disastrous course they entered upon. Instead of weakening the hands of the Government in imposing taxation to pay for the war, those who supported the war ought to strengthen the hands of the Government. Those who opposed it were entitled to oppose all payment for it; they were not responsible for the war; but those who were responsible were under an honourable obligation to support the Government, at the cost of popularity and their seats, in getting them out of the mess they had entered upon. The taxation of industries was always an unpopular measure, and it was always an undesirable measure, but if large expenditure was incurred it was always an unavoidable measure. But if they taxed industries they ought to find a method by which the burden would be universally and not locally felt. That was the strong objection to the coal duty in its present shape. If the duty was confined solely to the coal exported the burden would fall unequally. There were some coalfields whose output was almost entirely exported, while there were others that exported practically none. Those districts producing coal for export would be heavily taxed, and other districts not less responsible for the war would escape altogether. He would prefer that the tax should be made not an export duty but an Excise duty of 1s. per ton on all the coal produced in the country. It would then fall on the coal consumers, and that would be the entire country. Every householder—with the exception possibly of the very poorest class, who ought to be exempted, he meant the Crofters of the Highlands and Wales and the peat burners of Ireland—would feel the imposition of an Excise duty on coal. He entirely agreed with the view expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the working classes ought to be made to feel the burden of this war as well as any other class. They might be the victims of misrepresentation, like other parties, but they willingly fell into it, and they were as intollerant as any in not permitting a contrary expression of opinion to what they felt. He would like to draw the Chancellor of the Exchequer's attention to a further point.

This observation excited some laughter, as the Treasury Bench was at the time entirely deserted. The hon. Member then moved to report progress.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Bryn Roberts.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 171. [Division List No. 132.]

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sidney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael

Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northnts
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Dav. Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thompson, E. C (Monaghan, N.
Tompkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Bryn Roberts and Mr. William Jones.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon Edward Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A G H. (City of London
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Groves, James Grimble
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Middx
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath Arthur Howard (Hanley)
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, John (Kent, Free.
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Macartney, Rt Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Col. H L B. (Cambs.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow.
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Depford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (St'lybr'dge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Ropner, Col. Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith,H.C.(N'rth'b.,Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Whiteley,H(Asht'n-und-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Williams,RtHnJ.Powell-(Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Young,Commander (Berks, E.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I am anxious to say that I think the hon. Gentleman opposite was under some misapprehension. I had not the slightest intention of showing any discourtesy to him. I was called out to speak to another hon. Member for one moment, and should have been here in another second.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said that he had not moved to report progress owing to the conduct of the right hon. Gentleman, as he had been listening to the debate most patiently all the time, and he was quite aware that the right hon. Gentleman had gone out of the Chamber for a minute on business. But at this hour of the night, half-past ten o'clock, there ought to be some Member of the Government to represent the Government, and it was because there was no Member of the Government in the House that he moved to report progress. He had been dealing with the question of the coal duty. His contention was that there should be an Excise duty of 1s. per ton rather than an export duty, because then the burden would be felt generally, instead of by only a few coal dealers. An Excise duty of 1s. per ton would bring in no less a sum than eleven millions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The total output of coal last year was 220,000,000 tons, and an Excise duty of 1s. per ton on that amount would, as he had said, yield £11,000,000, which would be felt by the whole country. That was the only principle on which direct taxation should be levied. The only consistent course would be to select for taxation some article of universal consumption, and not confine it to one or two industries of a local character. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that he would take into consideration the question of existing forward contracts. The hon. Member for King's Lynn suggested that contracts with foreign dealers should be cancelled, but he would point out that these contracts would not be enforced in this country by our courts of law, but would be taken to foreign courts, who would pay no attention whatever to our legislation. It was true that the contracts could not be enforced against property in this country, but they could against the property of the contractors abroad, such as stores and depots. The proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be absolutely futile. It operated successfully in the case of the tea duties, but it was because the tea was consumed in this country, and, therefore, the persons who took advantage of the breach of contract were subject to the jurisdiction of our courts.

On the general question, the courage of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been deservedly recognised, but he could not compliment the right hon. Gentleman without qualification, for while the Chancellor had expounded courageously to the House the true facts of the case, when he came to grapple with the situation which resulted from those facts he did not display equal courage. What was the position? This lamentable war had cost us in round numbers £150,000,000; but did any man in or out of the House believe for a moment that, even if the whole mess was wiped up and the war stopped to-morrow, that sum would cover the whole cost? Why, the cost would be found to be at least £200,000,000. Now, how was that to be met? The Chancellor of the Exchequer very properly said that he would be no party to carrying on a war of this kind and throwing the whole debt on to posterity. He ought to have gone further, and said that he would not throw the principal part of the cost on to posterity. He thought that the whole of the debt ought to be placed on the present generation. On what conceivable ground could it be said that this generation ought not to show as great a patriotic feeling as our fathers did in the days of the Crimean war? The timidity which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had shown in this respect was not his own timidity, but had been forced upon him by his colleagues, and indicated what was the real opinion of His Majesty's Government as to the popularity of the war. If they really believed in the patriotism of the country in making this war on the small and brave nation of Boers, and that the country thoroughly supported the war, why should they shrink from imposing the chief burden on the people? They shrank because they knew in their hearts that the patriotism was false and spurious, that it was not the better sense of the country, that if the country had time to realise its thoughts it would repudiate with indignation responsibility for the war. Hence the rushing of the elections, and if it had been possible they would have rushed the Budget. Unfortunately for them, the Bill would have to be met after the war was at an end. Only when the people have recovered their senses, and when the worthier portion of the community were able to make their voices heard, would there be seen the appalling disparity between the causes of the war and the consequences of the war. The cause of this war was simply a question of two years for the franchise for the Uitlanders. On what ground could the throwing of the greatest part of the cost of the war on to posterity be justified? It was said it was to maintain the Empire. No, it was not to maintain the Empire; it was to throw the expenditure caused by the blunders of the Government on to the shoulders of posterity. What right had they to throw the punishment of their mistakes on to unborn generations? Did anybody believe for a moment that if Mr. Gladstone had been alive, and if the Liberal party had been in office, and had been actuated and governed by the principles of Liberalism, this war would ever have been undertaken? It would have been impossible. This war and the whole expenditure was due to the blunders of the Government, and the first blunder was the Jameson raid.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think that the hon. Member is entitled to go into that question in discussing the resolution before the Committee.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said that his point was that the war was due to causes that were avoidable, but supposing that even by the exercise of perfect wisdom it was unavoidable, it was not reasonable to put the cost of it on posterity. The whole initiative came from this country. By the admission of the Government, and of the Colonial Secretary himself, we interfered with the internal affairs of the Transvaal, a thing we had no right to do. And it was that interference on our part, at the instigation of big capitalists in South Africa who had the Colonial Secretary under their heel, it was owing to that criminal blunder that we were led into this war. Further than that, they would not have made that blunder had they not thought that the result would not be war. So that the whole expenditure of £150,000,000 was the disastrous result of a foolish attempt to bluff the Transvaal Government by the Government of the day. Why should posterity pay because we had a foolish Government which thought that they could serve the capitalists in South Africa by a little bluffing? Was not that unreasonable? He would go further, and say that if we threw this loan on posterity, posterity would be perfectly justified in repudiating it. He did not agree with Henry George in everything, but he did in this, that if a loan for the purpose of carrying on a wanton and wicked war was thrown on posterity, posterity would have a perfect right to repudiate it.

He proposed to move an Amendment to the resolution. They had been reminded more than once that it was only right the Transvaal should pay a great part of the cost of the war. Apparently the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not yet abandoned the hope that it would be made to do so. At any rate, he fancied that the right hon. Gentleman wished to keep the hope alive, and, consequently, he desired to assist him in that very laudable undertaking. When he spoke of the Transvaal they would readily understand that what he really meant was the gold mines of the Transvaal, for there was no other taxable property in that country. What he had to propose was to leave out of the resolutions the words, "Consolidated stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888" in order to insert the words, "Transvaal Land Stock to be secured primarily by a charge on the assets of the Transvaal Colony and guaranteed by the United Kingdom." This would mean the creation of a 2¾ per cent. Transvaal Loan, and the floating of such a loan would be equally as easy as one based on the Consolidated Fund, because it would have behind it the guarantee of the British Government. At the same time it would constitute a notice to everybody concerned, and to the mine-owners in particular, that it was intended that in due time those gentlemen should pay a great part of the cost of the war. No doubt strong objection would be made by the South African capitalists to the proposal. They had already had a book written and published for the express purpose of deprecating any attempt to throw this burden upon their shoulders. But it had been pointed out that, by their own admission, one result of this war would be a saving of five millions in the working of the mines. That was the minimum benefit which they themselves anticipated deriving from the war, and that in itself represented a capital sum nearly sufficient to pay two-thirds of the cost of the war. But was it reasonable that they should sacrifice nothing but the increased profits which they expected to accrue to them from the war? His answer to that was an emphatic negative. He held that, if possible, every shilling of the expense should fall upon their shoulders, seeing that they instigated the war, and that it was entered into entirely in consequence of the agitation which they organised, financed and buoyed up in every possible way. They exercised influence in high quarters in this country in order to support their schemes. True, the result might be that their anticipations might be falsified. Indeed, a good many anticipations had been falsified in the course of this war. At first it was thought that ten millions sterling would cover all the necessary outlay, and that three months would be the outside of time required for bringing the war to a conclusion. There was not a single miscalculation made by the Government that was not put practically into their mouths by the capitalists of South Africa. It was said that the Boer Army was small and ill-equipped for the conflict. That bubble had certainly been pricked. Who was it that said that? Was it the Army Intelligence Department? No, it was Mr. Cecil Rhodes. They were told, too, that the Boer Army would not fight. True, they did not fight until they had exhausted every effort to avert and avoid war. They made concession after concession, they reduced the franchise qualification from fourteen years to nine years and even to seven years——

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I fail to see what these remarks of the hon. Member have to do with the Amendment.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said he was asking that the capitalists who led the country into the war by their misrepresentations should be made, as far as possible, to pay the cost of it. He was showing that they were responsible for the war, and that they were the men who ought to pay. He was asking the House to make the loan a primary charge upon their properties. He was proving to the Committee that they were the people responsible for making the representations which led the Government into the war, and he was suggesting that they and not the innocent British taxpayer should bear the burden. He was arguing that every miscalculation which had resulted in great loss of life and treasure to this country was due to the misrepresentations of the Transvaal capitalists. Why then should they not pay? He quite recognised what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said with regard to the probability that they would get no immediate help from the Transvaal in the payment of the cost of the war. But, at the same time, he held that they should show their determination to throw the entire burden on the mines, even although they might not be able to recover a single shilling for two or three years. There was no reason why the stock should not now be created as Transvaal stock, and the liability at once placed upon the colony. It was true that the interest for this year, next year, and the year after might not be paid by the colony, and that this country might have to pay a large proportion of it for a great number of years. But that was no reason whatever why the burden should not be placed primarily upon the colony. Among the inducements held out in order to induce the Boers to surrender was the promise to give them representative government at the earliest practicable moment. Nobody supposed that the grant of such a government could be made coincident with the conclusion of the war. But the liability for the payment of the debt should at once be placed on the right shoulders. Unless the burden was now definitely placed upon the Transvaal, was it likely that, when representative government had been given and Home Rule practically established, this country would be able to induce the Colonial Government to take over the debt? They certainly would not do it willingly, and in the event of their refusal, how would it be possible to make them accept the liability? Could we do it by force? We had had some experience of that in the past, and he did not think that that experience was such as to induce a revival of the experiment. It was necessary that Parliament should make clear its determination to compel the mine-owners to pay the expense. They might grumble and groan as much as they pleased, but the taxpayers of this country were fully justified in compelling them to bear the consequences of their own misdeeds. It might be argued that many of the shareholders in the mines were not British subjects. He did not know how many of them might be the subjects of Germany or France. The more the better, so far as he was concerned, for his contention was that if they chose to entrust their money to the people who engineered this atrocious war their property should be made to pay the cost of it. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 5, paragraph (a), to leave out the words from the words 'per cent.,' to the end of the paragraph, in order to insert the words 'Transvaal Loan Stock to be secured primarily by a charge on the assets of the Transvaal Colony and guaranteed by the United Kingdom.'"—(*Mr. Bryn Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member desires by this Amendment to place the loan, which it is necessary now to raise, upon the mine-owners or capitalists or other persons in the Transvaal whom he considers the authors of the war.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Primarily.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Primarily, but I do not want to discuss that matter at all. I am as anxious as the hon. Member can be that those who own the wealth of the Transvaal should make a contribution, as I have always said, towards the expenses of the war. But let me point out to the Committee that the object of the hon. Member will not be gained by passing this Amendment, through which he would get nothing from these mine-owners or capitalists, or from the wealth which they own. I was obliged to admit last night that the Transvaal at present is not in a condition to pay anything towards this loan, or even to pay the interest on it.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: For a year or two.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Quite so, but it cannot at present, and therefore there is no question of charging the Transvaal or anybody in the Transvaal at present in this matter. The effect of substituting a 2¾ Transvaal stock for an Imperial Government security would be to saddle the taxpayers of this country with a much larger charge than I have ventured to propose to the House. It is very well known to any one who studies these things that English Government stocks command a much higher price in the market than the stocks which merely have the guarantee of the English Government, and the effect of the hon. Member's proposal, therefore, would be that we should have to issue this stock at a lower rate than we issue the security of the kind I propose. But more than this, I venture to say it would be deluding the public. What is the use of issuing a security which is nominally a charge on the Transvaal for the cost of the war at a moment when we know that the Transvaal cannot pay the interest? I do trust that the Committee will not sanction any such suggestion as the hon. Member has made. It is in the interest of the taxpayers that we should raise the loan on the best terms we can—that is, on our own credit. I can assure the hon. Member that I have so arranged the borrowing which has hitherto taken place that it is necessary from time to time during the next ten years for those borrowings to come under review by Parliament, and then, of course, will be the time for any contribution obtainable from the Transvaal to be obtained. May I make an appeal to the Committee? I trust we may be permitted at any rate to come to a decision on the Amendment without delay and to pass this resolution this evening. Last night I appealed to the Committee to pass the resolution then, but in deference to an appeal from the hon. Member for Waterford I did not press it, thinking it quite reasonable that further time should be given for the discussion. But the position is this. Of course I was obliged in my Budget speech to announce the fact that I proposed to go to the market for a considerable loan, and directly that announcement is made by a Chancellor of the Exchequer all kinds of rumours get about and all kinds of dealings and speculations take place, and there are persons who make it their interest to lower certain stocks to the utmost possible point in order that they may be able to obtain any new loan more cheaply. I cannot put it too strongly to the Committee in the interests of the public and of the taxpayers of the country that they should come to a decision upon this resolution to-night. I cannot as Chancellor of the Exchequer take the responsibility of holding the matter back any longer. It is necessary for us to act upon this. If the Committee consider that the Amendment is preferable to my proposal, let them accept it, or, if they decline to sanction the issue of the loan, let the resolution be rejected; but I entreat the Committee to come to a decision to-night.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said that evey Member of the House of course recognised that the passing of this resolution was only the first step, and it did not imply they would have no further opportunities for discussing the subject. It had already been announced that on the following Tuesday the matter would be brought up on Report, and in addition to that, other opportunities would arise for discussing the various stages of the Bill which would have to be introduced. While he entertained the strongest possible opinion against the whole policy of the resolution, he could not, in fairness, deny that the appeal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was a reasonable one. Hon. Members in every quarter of the House were under a great obligation to the right hon. Gentleman for the perfect candour and courage with which he had put the full facts of the financial situation before the House, and, in view of the right hon. Gentleman's appeal, he certainly should advise his hon. friends around him not to prolong the discussion. But, having met the right hon. Gentleman in that fair spirit, he thought he was entitled to make an appeal to the Leader of the House on another matter. It had been intimated that there was an intention to take the next stage of the Army Annual Bill that night. The Bill was one which involved considerable discussion, and he hoped that the Government would allow it to stand over instead of making it necessary to sit after midnight. With regard to the Amendment which had been moved by the hon. Member for the Eifion Division, while he was in entire sympathy with every opinion he expressed, and while he had the highest possible respect for him, he was bound to say that he did not think the Amendment would have the effect of compelling the mine-owners to pay the cost of the war.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member for Waterford has most fairly met the appeal of my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. With regard to the appeal which he has made to me, although it is important that we should get on with the Army Annual Bill, I am very unwilling to put any unreasonable pressure upon hon. Members, and if the House will allow the Bill to pass up to the point on which it is non-controversial, we might then move to report progress.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: When will it be resumed? Will it be on Monday, and, if so, will it be taken before Twelve o'clock?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It must pass before the end of the month. I will do my best to bring it on at as early an hour as possible.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: May I be allowed to say that if there is really no controversial matter before Clause 4, the right hon. Gentleman will gain nothing by getting these clauses. I do not know whether there is any matter requiring discussion in the clauses before Clause 4, but I really think the right hon. Gentleman would not be endangering the rapid and convenient passage of the Bill by letting the whole matter stand over.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Gentleman tells me he has no desire to —if I may use the term—obstruct, I am quite prepared to meet him, and will accept his statemnt.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I rise to make an appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If he had taken the same excellent advice in the case of coal as he did in the case of sugar——

*THE CHAIRMAN: An Amendment having been moved, the discussion must be confined to that until it is disposed of.

MR. LOUGH: As my hon. friend has got a sympathetic answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, perhaps he would be good enough to withdraw his Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman has treated the subject very satisfactorily, and he has pledged himself over and over again to get all the money he can out of the Transvaal. I do not believe he will be able to get anything out of it, but I think it would be unfair to load the taxpayers now with the large interest which would be the result of adopting the Amendment of my hon. friend. I would therefore appeal to him to withdraw it, in order that something may be said about the resolution itself in the short time now left to us.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): May I ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer a question with reference to the matter raised by the Amendment? He has told us that it is his intention to make the Transvaal goldfields pay a substantial contribution towards the cost of the war. Assuming the Transvaal becomes a Crown Colony, will the right hon. Gentleman say how he purposes to collect any contribution which he may levy on the goldfields in the Transvaal? Has he thought of any means by which the proposed contribution would be levied apart from that suggested in the Amendment of my hon. friend? If he has, of course that would simplify matters very considerably, but unless he has some scheme it seems to me that some such safeguard as that embodied in the Amendment is absolutely indispensable. As has been pointed out, we have no power to enforce taxation on a colony of the Crown, and no power to collect it even if we sought to enforce it, and in the event of these patriotic mine-owners refusing to pay the contribution asked from them, what steps will be taken to forestall them, in the possible contingency of their refusal, by obtaining some lien over the still untouched wealth of the goldfields of the Transvaal? The question seems to me to be one of considerable moment, and I trust the right hon. Baronet may enable my hon. friend to withdraw his Amendment by giving the House some assurance that his desire to obtain a contribution towards the cost of the war from the Transvaal goldfields is something more than a desire.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member is asking me to cook the hare before I have caught it. He must remember that in the first instance the Transvaal will, of course, be a Crown Colony under the Imperial Government, and it will be for the Imperial Government to deal with the matter as soon as the finances of the Transvaal are able to bear it. Of course, when a more responsible Government is given to the Transvaal, arrangements will have to be made in the matter, as has frequently been done. There will be no difficulty in the matter.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Borough): As this will not be the last war loan, I would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he can give us an assurance that, in the event of further money being raised, the particular way in which this sixty millions is to be raised will not be treated as a precedent, and that the hands of the Government will be free to deal with the matter as circumstances arise.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I have often been found fault with for the variety of ways in which I have borrowed, on the unfortunately numerous occasions on which I have been obliged to go into the money market for loans. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that the fact that I am borrowing in a particular way now will not be treated as a precedent for the future.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I am afraid unless we look a little more carefully into the matter these toads will be able to get outside the harrow; but my hon. friend should remember that we will, on a future occasion, be able to take a vote on his Amendment. At the present moment, undoubtedly, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made an excellent case why the resolution should be passed before twelve o'clock, and it seems to me that my hon. friend would consult his own views and the views of the many who agree with him if he would not take a division to-night, but bring forward the question on a future occasion.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: I desire to withdraw the Amendment, and, in doing so, I wish to state that I do not withdraw in any sense or form from my determination to get if possible this money from the Transvaal. I may say that, although the Chancellor of the Exchequer is a member of a Tory Government, I have some amount of confidence in his declaration that he will make every effort to get this money from the Transvaal. I recollect the very sturdy speech he delivered when Mr. Cecil Rhodes endeavoured to get the cost of his railway from this country, and I hope he will be equally determined in this matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR BAYLEY: I am now in order in speaking on the question of the export duty on coal. The Chancellor of the Exchequer did not get the same advice in regard to coal as he did with regard to sugar. The question of coal was not as well thought out. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer really realise how far-reaching this duty on coal will be? Whose interests is it going to affect? It will affect the interests of the miners, the mine-owners, the railways, and the owners of ports and harbours in this country, and will also affect very much the interests of Manchester and the Ship Canal. The coal export trade is a struggling one in many of our new ports, and I sympathise very much with the hon. Gentleman the Member for King's Lynn, who knows perfectly well that if this duty is carried on the lines proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer there is not the slightest chance of any supporter of the Government being again returned for King's Lynn.

I would ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to look at the effect of his proposals. Take a place like Port Said. Coal sent there from this country will have to pay this duty, and will have to compete with Australian coal, so that actually if this duty is carried we will be putting Australia in a far better position than ourselves. The same applies to our other colonies. It would have been far better if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had taken a bolder course, for there is always safety in boldness, and made the income tax 1s. 4d. That would have been more satisfactory to the country. Take my own constituency. It is a large mining constituency and exports a great deal of coal which goes through the Manchester Ship Canal to all parts of the world. If this duty is passed the quantity of coal exported will decrease from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. I think the ratepayers of the city of Manchester, who have a very large interest in the Canal, will have something to say as to why this money could not have been found in a way which would not inflict such an injury on Manchester and the Ship Canal. My constituency—Chesterfield and the neighbourhood—is more or less dependent on the mines, and if this duty is passed the value of the mines will go down from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. If that goes on for three or four years the value of property in Chesterfield will decrease from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. It is a very serious matter to cripple in this manner one of the fundamental industries of the country. I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will reconsider this question, and that he will think out some other means of finding the money required. The present proposal is certain to be exceedingly unpopular in the country.

MR LOUGH: I think it is a great pity that the suggestion which I understood you, Sir, to make yesterday, and which I think commended itself to the First Lord of the Treasury and to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was not more strictly carried out this evening. I thought when we discussed sugar and coal last night that these subjects would be then postponed, so that we might have an opportunity of discussing this very important resolution. The hon. Member for King's Lynn, however, devoted himself almost exclusively to the subjects which were discussed last night, but I should now like to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a few words of explanation with regard to the steps he intends to take on this important matter. I myself was not able to join in the very enthusiastic congratulations made on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement last night. He said, however, that he would not be the man to come to the House and ask for power to borrow an undue proportion of any charge for war, and he suggested that as long as he was Chancellor of the Exchequer he would insist on raising a fair proportion of the sum required for war from taxation. Now, I challenge the right hon. Gentleman as to whether he has done so on the present occasion. I will take an immediate test. Last year we were also at war, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had a deficit of thirty-seven millions. He insisted on raising twelve and a half millions, or a third, by taxation. This year he has a deficit of fifty-five millions, and he proposes to raise eleven millions, or one-fifth, by taxation, so that he is borrowing four-fifths this year, whereas he only borrowed two-thirds last year. The main point I wish to put to the Chancellor of the Exchequer is this. He has created a great deal of discontent in financial circles in London by the way in which he has raised money up to the present time. He has had Exchequer bonds, Treasury bills, and war loans, but I think the present proposal is the worst of all. The right hon. Gentleman claims the right to take one large loan in Consols instead of short loans. Anyone familiar with the City knows that there is a great deal of discontent at the manner in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has raised his money. The story is that, having taken advice through the usual channels, and having got a unanimous opinion, he did exactly the opposite. The result has been that within the last year or two we have seen the most alarming fall in securities, especially consols, that we have had in this country for a generation or two. Consols have fallen 20 per cent. during the last few years, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer must acknowledge that he is responsible to a large extent for this unfortunate circumstance. The question of the price of Consols is of great importance, because it affects other securities, and the alarming fall in Consols has brought down home railways and every other good security. I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer might do something to avoid increasing the evil. The advice he got was to raise the money by a plain addition to the National

Debt. The mistake he made in the earlier stages of the war was to take too hopeful a view of the situation; now, I believe, he takes rather too pessimistic a view. The right hon. Gentleman has had plenty of temporary loans, and I think the Committee might have an assurance from him that he would raise the money now required by a simple addition to the National Debt. At any rate the market would like a definite announcement as to the intentions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. At present no one knows what he intends to do, and surely he ought to take the Committee into his confidence.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: If I could take the Committee into my confidence without also taking everyone else into my confidence, I should be glad to do so; but at present I think I had better keep my own counsel.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 186; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 133.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick Ceorge
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.Allen Benjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen. Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T.Gibson(KingsLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N .Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHon.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen (Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, SirJoseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorrington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,Sir William Theodore
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlt's
Gorst,Rt.Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesb'y)
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,Rt.Hn. Ld.G.(Midx
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nde'y)
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harris,F. Leverton (Tynemth.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath,James (Staffords,N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard,John(Kent,Faversh.
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jessel,CaptainHerbertMerton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Kennaway,Rt.HonSirJohnH.
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH(Hants,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, RtHn. Walter(Bristol,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.H.LB(Cambs.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriessh.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel,Hn.WmRobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Price, Robert John
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S. G.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hon.M.W(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-

Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (N'th'mb., Tyneside
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Col. Wm. George
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry

Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles

Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.

Daly, James
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, Wm. J.
Duncan, J. Hastings

Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)

Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William

Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.

Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael

Kennedy, Patrick James

Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Rossc'mm'n N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John

Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur

Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon

Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (North'nts
Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, David Alfred Merthyr
Thomas, J. A. (Gl'm'rg'n, Gower
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper

Ure, Alexander

White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Schwann.

It being after midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at a quarter after Twelve of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 22nd April, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Balinhard (*E. Southesk*) took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL ELECTRIC EXPRESS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

Finchley and Hendon Tramways.

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with—

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways (Petition for additional provision).

London United Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.]. (Petition for additional Provision.)

BARRY RAILWAY BILL.

RODGER'S PATENT (Petition for Bill).

Examiner's Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Friday next.

BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

BETHLEM HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

Supplemental Reports of His Majesty's Attorney General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WORCESTER TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

CHESTER GAS BILL [H.L.].

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 12th of March last discharged; and Bill committed.

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT) GAS BILL [H.L.].

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 12th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

GRAVESEND GAS BILL.

NEATH HARBOUR BILL.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND CANNOCK CHASE RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (CANADA DOCK WORKS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER (MARKET STREET AREA) IMPROVEMENTS BILL [H.L.].

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL ELECTRIC EXPRESS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the L. Kenry (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Viscount Bangor; read, and agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL [H.L.]. (No. 34.)

A Bill intituled an Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Aberavon, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Hampton, Hoddesdon, Ince-in-Makerfield, Mountain Ash, Neath (Rural District), Pontypridd, Teddington, and Worsley.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL [H.L.]. (No. 35.)

A Bill intituled an Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Barry, Crompton, Foots Cray, Friern Barnet, Isle of Thanet (Rural), Newbury, Pudsey, Ross, Roundhay, and Royton.

Were presented by the Earl of Hardwicke (for the Earl of Dudley); read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL. (No. 36.)

THAMES AND SEVERN PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL. (No. 37.)

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the following papers having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to order of the House of the 17th of February, 1896, viz.:—

1. Marriages, Births, and Deaths (England).—General Abstract for 1900. (March 30.)

2. South Africa—
   - I. Further correspondence relating to affairs in South Africa (in continuation of [Cd. 420], December, 1900).
   - II. Letter from Commandant Louis Botha to Lord Kitchener, dated 13th February, 1901. (April 2.)

3. Trade.—Annual statement of trade of United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, for 1900: Volume I. (April 3.)

4. Army.—Approximate estimate of expenditure under the Barracks Act of 1890 and Military Works Acts of 1897 and 1899. (April 11.)

5. Metropolitan Cattle Market.—Account of moneys received and paid by the Chamberlain of the City of London in relation to the Metropolitan Cattle Market for the year 1900; also an account of extraordinary works executed other than general repairs for the same period. (April 11.)

6. Explosives—
   - I. (Explosion at Chilworth Gunpowder Factory).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in the corning house at the factory of the Chilworth Gunpowder Company, Limited, at Chilworth, Surrey, on the 12th February, 1901.
   - II. (Explosion at Nobel's Explosives Factory at Ardeer, Ayrshire).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in one of the dynamite cartridge huts at the factory of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, at Ardeer, near Stevenston, in the county of Ayr, on the 29th January, 1901. (April 11.)

7. Trade Reports—
   - I. Annual Series:
     - No. 2568. Germany (German East Africa).
     - No. 2569. France (La Rochelle and District). (April 11.)
     - No. 2570. United States (Baltimore and District). (April 13.)
     - No. 2571. United States (Texas).
     - No. 2572. United States (Charleston). (April 17.)
     - No. 2573. Greece (The Morea, Acarnania, Etolia).
     - No. 2574. Germany (Pomerania).
     - No. 2575. Trade of Switzerland for 1900. (April 18.)
   - II. Miscellaneous Series:
     - No. 549. German Colonial Estimates for 1901.
     - No. 550. Zinc Industry in United States. (April 13.)

8. Army and Militia.—Annual Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting for 1900. (April 17.)

9. Egypt, No. 1. (1901).—Reports by His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General on the Finances, Administration, and condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1900. (April 18.)

10. China, No. 3. (1901).—Further correspondence respecting events at Peking (in continuation of China, No. 4 (1900)). (April 18.)

11. Treaty Series, No. 4. (1901).—Agreement additional to the Convention between the United Kingdom and France, of 8th December, 1882, relative to the exchange of Telegraph Money Orders between the two countries; signed at Paris 10th October, 1900 (ratifications exchanged at Paris 16th March, 1901). (April 19.)

12. Agrarian Offences (Provinces) (Ireland).—Return for the Year ended 31st December, 1900. (April 19.)

13. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—

I. Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for 1900.

II. Return of prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for 1900. (April 19.)

14. Loan Fund Board (Ireland).—Sixty-third Annual Report for 1900. (April 19.)

15. Queensland.—The Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Acts, 1885 to 1898, Amendment Act of 1900. (April 20.)

16. Western Australia.—The Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1900, No. V. (April 20.)

17. Education (Scotland).—Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 19th April, 1901, amending the terms of Article 89 (*b*) of the Code of 1901. (April 20.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

Return stating the number of sailors and soldiers, giving their names and description, who have been invalided home since the commencement of the South African Campaign, and have died from wounds or diseases; laid before the House (pursuant to Address of the 21st of February last), and to be printed. (No. 30.)

POLICE (SCOTLAND).

Forty-third Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).

Seventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the commissioners and trustees of the Board of Manufacturers in Scotland, for the year ending 30th September, 1900.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Third Report of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Board to the Secretary for Scotland.

CROFTER HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886-87.

Report by the Crofters Commission, being for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

TRADE REPORTS.

I. Annual Series.—No. 2576. Germany (Chemnitz).

II. Miscellaneous Series.—No. 551. Veterinary work in British East Africa and Uganda Protectorate, 1898–1900.

III. Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest (with appendix), 1900.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).

Return of all loans raised in England under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half year ended on the 31st March, 1901, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, etc.

EGYPTIAN GUARANTEED LOAN, 1885.

Account for the year ending 31st March, 1901.

GREEK LOAN, 1898.

Account for the year ending 31st March, 1901.

PUBLIC RECORDS.

I. (Admiralty Department).—Seventh Schedule, containing a list and particulars of classes of documents which have been removed from the office of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein.

II. (Supreme Court of Judicature): Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the Central Office and in the District Registries which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office:

SUPERANNUATION (PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS).

Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of junior inspector, attached to the Elementary Branch of the Board of Education, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired on the Public Service are required.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Order, dated the 25th day of March, 1901, prohibiting the landing of animals from the Republic of Chile.

POLLING DISTRICTS.

1. County of Cambridge.—Order made by the County Council of the County of Cambridge creating a new polling district in the Eastern Division of the county;

2.—County of Essex.—Order made by the County Council of the County of Essex on 2nd April, 1901, altering certain polling districts in the county;

3. City of Wakefield.—Order made by the Council of the City of Wakefield on 13th March, 1901, altering certain polling districts in the city.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT) (WAREHOUSES IN FACTORIES OR WORKSHOPS WHERE BRIGHT OR BURNISHED METAL GOODS ARE MADE).

Order, dated 6th September, 1900, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 65 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and Section 39 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, permitting warehouses where bright or burnished metal goods are made to be treated as separate factories or workshops as far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons, and women.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.

Minute by the Board of Education sanctioning the subjects to be taught under the Act, for the City and County Borough of Belfast.

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Report and Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1900; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

University Court Ordinance, No. V. (Glasgow No. 1). Regulations for Degrees in Science in Agriculture; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 31.)

THAMES CONSERVANCY.

General Report of the Conservators of the River Thames, from 1st January, 1900, to 31st December, 1900, with a statement of the accounts of the Conservators for the year ended 31st December, 1900; Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of the Corporation of the City of Glasgow; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

DECLARATION OF THE SOVEREIGN AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

Petition against alteration of; of the Presbytery of Abernethy; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILLS.

BETTING BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to render penal the inciting persons to betting and wagering was presented by the Lord Bishop of Hereford; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 32.)

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS REGULATION BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1881, was presented by the Lord Kenyon; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 33.)

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock, till to-morrow, Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 22nd April, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

London and North Western Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.
Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 5) Bill.
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill.
Metropolitan Common Scheme (Ham) Provisional Order Bill.
Metropolitan Common Scheme (Orpington) Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL (NO. STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 2nd day of April, That, in the case of the following Bill, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Dublin Corporation Bill.

NATIONAL GALLERY (PURCHASE OF ADJACENT LAND) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 1st day of April, That, in the case of the following Bill, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

National Gallery (Purchase of Adjacent Land) Bill.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 2nd day of April, That, in the case of the following Bill, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Electric Lighting (London) Bill.

BURY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL.

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL.

LONDON BRIDGE WIDENING BILL.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEND RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time and passed.

LEATHERHEAD GAS BILL.

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

PETERSFIELD AND SELSEY GAS BILL.

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

"To regulate the expenditure of Money by the London County Council on Capital Account during the current financial period, and the raising of Money to meet such expenditure," read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS.

Petition for Bill; referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP F).

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS informed the House that the Committee on Group F of Private Bills not being appointed to meet until to-morrow, the parties promoting the Devonport Corporation (Gas) Bill, which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of Samuel William Wright, a servant of the Admiralty, 62, Alexandra Road, Devonport, was essential to their case, and that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House,

Ordered, That Samuel William Wright do attend the Committee on Group F of Private Bills to-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Tunstall (No. 1); Watermills; Bedford; Abram; Dewsbury; Wharton Hall; Radcliffe and Kearsley; Bower Hollinwood; Broad Oak; and Dunkirk Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Greenwich; Gosport; and London (two); to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from New Cwm-gorse; Tunstall (No. 1); Watermills Dewsbury; Aspull; New Flint; Bedford; Abram; Twyn Gwyn; Wharton Hall; Stevenston; Radcliffe and Kearsley; Broad Oak; Dunkirk; Bower Hollinwood; and Oldham Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from London and other places, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against, from Dumfries; and Perth; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from South Tottenham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against, from Oldham; Manchester; Matlock Bridge (two); Matlock Bath (three); Matlock Bank (two); Tansley; Matlock Green (two); Bensall; Holloway; Winster; Elton; Stockton-on-Tees; Darley Dale; Cromford (two); Darley Bridge; Lea; Two Dales; Darley; Evesham; Horfield; Sheffield (two); Berkeley; and Stockport (fourteen); to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Glasgow; Inveraray; Fife and Angus; Bere Alston (two); Chudleigh; Donside; Bishops Teignton; Bishop Auckland; Spennymoor; Virginstowe; Marston; Lancaster; Caton; Thornton; Kearsley; Ardrossan; Sheffield (two); Beith; Little Dunkeld; Westminster; Cheriton Fitzpaine; Crediton; Dumbarton (two); and Sandford; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Tyrie; Holm; Mains; Tillicoultry; Birsay; Alva (three); Annan; Dumfries; Royal Parliamentary and Police Burghs of Scotland; Fordyce; Fenwick; Kilbirnie; Stewarton; Anstruther Easter; Crail; Boyndie (two); Mull; Rathven (three); Dumbarton; Glassary; and Logierait; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF ESSEX).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Essex altering certain Polling Districts in the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS.

Copy presented, of Index to Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Representatives Abroad on Trade and Subjects of General Interest (with Appendix), 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARKLOW HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Report of the Arklow Harbour Commissioners and Statement of Accounts for 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS).

Copy presented, of Return for the months of July and August, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAWNBROKERS' RETURNS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2576 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 551 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Charitable Endowments (London).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered

2nd August, 1894; *Mr. Francis Stevenson*]; to be printed. [No. 133.]

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Order [28th February] for a Return relative thereto read, and discharged; and instead thereof—

Return ordered, "showing—

I.—The proceedings of Parish Councils in regard to Allotments and Common Pasture under Section 26 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.		7.	8.	9.	10.	11.		12.
County	Parish	Number of applicants granted Allotments since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of applicants refused Allotments since 15th day of May, 1895.	Total number of applicants to Parish Council for Allotments since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of Allotment holders and total acreage of Allotments at 1st day of April, 1901.		Total annual rent payable to Parish Council for Allotment	Number of applicants granted Common Pasture since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of applicants refused Common Pasture since 15th day of May, 1895.	Total number of applicants to Parish Council for Common Pasture since 15th day of May, 1895.	Number of holders of Common Pasture and total acreage of Common Pasture at 1st day of April, 1901.		Total annual rent payable to County Council for Common Pasture.
					Number of Allotment holders	Acreage.					Number	Acreage.	
						A.r.p.	£. s. d.					A. r. p.	£ s. d.

II.—The proceedings of County Councils in regard to representations by Parish Councils for Orders under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Section 26, authorising land to be taken on lease compulsorily for Allotments.

1.	2.	3.		4.			5.	6.	7.	8.	
County.	Parish.	Date of each representation from Parish Council to County Council as to land for Allotments.		Orders made by County Council for taking land on lease compulsorily for Allotments.			Date of appeal (if any) to Local Government Board from decision of County Council.	Date of Local Government Board Order (if any) overruling decision of County Council.	Date of memorial (if any) presented to Local Government Board praying for further inquiry.	Date of final decision (if any) of Local Government Board.	
		Granted by County Council.	Refused by County Council.	Date of Order.	Acreage of land authorised to be taken for Allotments.	Annual rent payable by Parish Council for such land.				(1) Confirming Order.	(2) Rejecting Order.
					A. r. p.	£ s. d.					

—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND) INQUIRY (WEXFORD).

Return ordered, "giving the Report of the Proceedings of the Local Government Board Inquiry into the question of the Salaries of the County and Assistant Surveyors held at Wexford on the 16th and 17th days of April."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*)

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS (LICENSED HOUSES).

Address for "Return showing the number of fully-licensed Public Houses and the number of Beer Houses upon the estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the Metropolitan District which have been already suppressed by the Commissioners since the date of a Report of a Select Committee of the Board made in the year 1883 (see House of Lords Return, No. 175, of Session 1883), and the numbers of those which the Commissioners have decided to suppress upon the determination of the current leases."—(*Lord Hugh Cecil.*)

SALE OF INTOXICANTS (REFUSAL OF LICENCES).

Address for "Return of the number of Licences for the sale of Intoxicants in the United Kingdom the renewal of which has been refused by the licensing authority during the year ending in October, 1900, and the grounds of such refusals."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON reported from the Chairmen's Panel, That they had appointed Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON further reported from the Chairmen's Panel; That they had agreed to the following Resolution:—That any Member of the Chairmen's Panel be and he is hereby empowered to ask any other Member of the Chairmen's Panel to take his place in case of necessity.

Report to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, if the Government are unwilling to take legal action against the Chartered Company in respect of the Jameson Raid, he will sell any rights pertaining thereto that the British Government may have as successors to the Transvaal Government, and at what price.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have never stated that His Majesty's Government were unwilling to take legal action in this matter, but that they were advised that they had no legal rights. I have no reason to believe that a purchaser can be found for rights which we are told on the highest authority do not exist.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman tell the House who his legal advisers are? And is he aware that the coffers of the Imperial Exchequer are empty——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is arguing the question.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman kindly state who his legal advisers are?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The ordinary advisers of the Crown.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer one other question? Will he sell the rights if a purchaser can be found to take them, seeing that the coffers of the Exchequer are empty, and that an honest penny may thus be earned?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Any tender which the hon. Member may wish to make had better be addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Will the Law advisers send their fees as conscience money to the Chancellor of the Exchequer?

MR. MERRIMAN'S LETTER OF 11TH MARCH, 1898.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to the motion introduced in the House of Assembly in Cape Colony on 9th October by the hon. J. X. Merriman, declaring the publication, without his permission, by the Colonial Secretary of Mr. Merriman's letter to President Steyn, dated 11th March, 1898, to be deprecated, and to Mr. Merriman's statement that Sir Alfred Milner had forwarded that letter without the knowledge of Mr. Merriman to the Colonial Secretary, and had, with the Colonial Secretary, been guilty of a breach of the ordinary decencies and courtesies of official life; and whether he has any explanation to offer to these statements.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have seen the report of a debate in the Cape House of Assembly in which Mr. Merriman attacked the High Commissioner and myself in moving a resolution deprecating the publication of his letter. The resolution was rejected by the Cape House, and I have nothing to add to what I have already said on the subject.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Was the resolution rejected by a majority of three, at a time when there were six Members away?

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman explain why he calls the speech an attack upon himself?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is arguing.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman will publish his own letter that he sent back with the Rhodes correspondence?

*MR. SPEAKER: That question is out of order.

PROPOSED DEPORTATION OF BOER PRISONERS TO TASMANIA.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Australian Commonwealth Government have refused to allow Boer prisoners to be imprisoned in Tasmania, and whether, in view of this refusal, the Imperial Government still intends to send any prisoners to Australasia.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Federal Cabinet of the Australian Commonwealth, at its first sitting in Melbourne on 11th April, decided to reject the recommendation of the Colonial Secretary that Boer prisoners should be sent to Tasmania; and what course does he propose to adopt in view of the action of the Federal Cabinet.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I telegraphed to the Governor-General of Australia on 14th March requesting him to ascertain from his Ministers whether they were willing that I should address an inquiry to the Governor of Tasmania asking if any Boer prisoners could be accommodated in Tasmania, and if so, how many. I added that his Ministers would, of course, understand that if there were any local objections His Majesty's Government would not desire to press the suggestion. I was informed by Lord Hopetoun that although the Tasmanian Government would be willing to receive Boer prisoners, the Federal Government were averse to the proposal. The idea was accordingly at once abandoned. This reply also answers the question on the same subject addressed to me by the hon. Member for South Donegal.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Were not the last convicts sent to Tasmania Irish Nationalists?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the last paragraph of my question.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes; I said the proposal had been immediately abandoned.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Then, where are these prisoners to be sent?

[No answer was returned.]

SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the High Commissioner's Consultative Committee has as its secretary Mr. R. J. Pakeman, who wrote an atricle in the *Johannesburg Star*, entitled "The Dead Duke" (at the time when the late Duke of Clarence was awaiting burial); whether the British population of Johannesburg compelled Mr. Pakeman to leave for Durban in consequence of this article; and whether this committee has held meetings at Government House, the official residence of the High Commissioner.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Mr. Pakeman is hon. secretary to the committee, but I have no information as to the newspaper article referred to, and I have received no complaints in regard to his appointment to this unpaid position.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman consult the Uitlanders on the subject?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Mr. Pakeman is in a sense representative of the Uitlanders on a committee appointed by the Government to assist me in dealing with the question of the refugees, and they would naturally be the first persons to complain if they thought they had any right to complain. I believe there is great doubt—this much I may say—whether Mr. Pakeman was the author of the article.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: The statement I quoted appeared in the public newspapers of South Africa.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir; but everything which appears in the public newspapers is not necessarily true.

FLOGGING SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES

Mr. OSMOND-WILLIAMS (Merionethshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the new justices whom Sir Alfred Milner will appoint will have power to administer as many as twenty-five lashes to any native culprit who may come before them; and, if so, whether, in view of that part of the King's Speech which said our object was to establish in South Africa equal rights to all white people and protection and justice to the native pouplation, he will reconsider the appointment of magistrates with these powers.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have received no official information, but I shall take the opportunity of Sir Alfred Milner's visit to this country to discuss the matter with him.

SOUTH AFRICAN LAND COMMISSION.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Report of the Commission on Land in South Africa, presided over by the Secretary to the Admiralty, will be published.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: As I stated in reply to a previous question, I have forwarded the Report to Sir Alfred Milner for his observations, and when I receive them I will consider whether it is desirable to publish the Report.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Secretary to the Admiralty has quoted from the Report in a speech to the Orangemen of Belfast?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: On the contrary, I know that he has not done so.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: And I know that he has.

SOUTH AFRICAN DESPATCHES.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can explain why the despatch received from Sir A. Milner in February last was only published this week; and whether, in future, important messages from South Africa will be laid before Parliament as soon as they are received.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: There was in my opinion no necessity in the public interest for the immediate publication of the despatch in question, which was kept back with other matter in the expectation that further despatches of interest might be received which would be included in the publication of Papers. Owing to the continuance of the war, the progress in regard to civil administration has been slower than I anticipated and the publication of Papers was only finally decided upon when Sir A. Milner's request for leave was received, which I considered should be immediately laid before Parliament.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Was not the despatch which the right hon.

Gentleman says it was not in the public interest to publish the one in which Sir Alfred Milner stated that affairs were now worse in the Transvaal than they were six months ago?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I did not say it was not in the interest of the public to publish it. I said its immediate publication was not necessary in the public interest, and it has never been the custom for any Department of the Government to publish every despatch immediately it is received.

CAMPS OF CONCENTRATION.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushclffie): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can inform the House of the number of camps of concentration formed by the military authorities in South Africa; where they are situated; what is the approximate number of men, women, and children confined in each; what is the nature of the shelter erected; whether the system of diminished rations for the women and children whose husbands and fathers have not yet surrendered is still in practice with the sanction of His Majesty's Government; whether records of the births and deaths in these camps have been and are accurately preserved; what provision exists at each camp for the medical attendance and nursing of the sick; and what arrangements have been made for the education of the children confined in the camps.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): It is not possible within the limits of a reply to a question to give all the detailed information required, and, further, such information as has reached me at present is confined to the Transvaal. These camps and numbers of refugees, so far as we are aware, are as follows:—Barberton, 703; Heidelberg, 1,307; Irene, 1,497; Johannesburg, 5,487; Klerksdorp, 456; Middelburg, 977; Potchefstroom, 5,373; Standerton, 1,342; Vereeniging, 661; Volksrust, 2,068; Mafeking, 800—20,671. There are also 434 self-supporting refugees. The nature of the shelter varies according to the locality, solid buildings being used where possible. All refugees were placed on the same scale of rations on 27th February. Every provision has been made for medical attendance, and the education of the children is being conducted in sheds or marquees according to the accommodation. Sir Alfred Milner is giving his personal attention to improving the conditions of life in these camps. Records of births and deaths are preserved, and I have telegraphed for figures.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): Are not the children Dutch-speaking children, and is the education given in English?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question.

AN HON. MEMBER: How many of the camps has Sir Alfred Milner personally visited?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. JOHN ELLIS: Will the right hon. Gentleman communicate with the authorities at Port Elizabeth?

MR. BRODRICK: I asked Lord Kitchener for a general Report on the whole of the camps, and he has sent me what he could get before the last mail. I hope to get more.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): Is the wholesale deportation of non-combatants in a State admittedly, prior to the war, a free, sovereign and independent State——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. HAVILAND BURKE remained standing.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member persists in standing up after I have risen to call him to order, I shall have to call serious attention to his conduct.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE: I beg to say that as a new Member I might be reasonably excused.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member tells me that he was not aware that there was any such rule I shall accept his statement.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the number of Boer women and children detained in camps by the British authorities, and what the death rate has been amongst them since they were brought into camps from their homes.

Mr. BRODRICK: I have telegraphed to Lord Kitchener for the figures desired by the hon. Member.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: When shall I put the question down again?

Mr. BRODRICK: In a week or so. It requires careful investigation.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: This day week.

AMERICAN CHARITABLE RELIEF FOR BOER NON-COMBATANTS.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to an appeal by the wife of the British Military Governor of Pretoria to the American public for funds to provide clothing for the Boer women and children confined by the military authorities in the camps of concentration in South Africa; and whether His Majesty's Government will give instructions that all reasonable facilities by way of access to the camps shall be given to those desirous of alleviating the situation and mitigating the sufferings of the women and children therein confined.

Mr. BRODRICK: I am aware that the Governor of Pretoria has opened a subscription list for funds to supplement the issues made to the Boer prisoners. I have received some information as regards the camps in the Transvaal, but I have not yet received a Report on those in the Orange Colony and Cape Colony. As regards the former, I am informed that every facility of access to the camps is granted. Admittance is permitted on application to the head officer or local superintendent. The authorities are and have been for some time in communication with various charitable institutions regarding aid to the refugees, and have received expressions of thanks. The refugees themselves are allowed to freely visit the towns adjacent to their camps, and stores have been as far as practicable established in the camps themselves.

COST OF THE WAR.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the average weekly cost of the war in South Africa for the last ten weeks.

Mr. BRODRICK: The average cost of the war for the last ten weeks may be taken approximately at about one and a half millions a week.

VOLUNTEERS AND YEOMANRY WAR GRATUITY.

Mr. GUTHRIE (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the men serving in Volunteer and Yeomanry corps receiving higher pay than the Regular troops will receive the special war gratuity.

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir; the gratuity is granted to all commissioned officers and attested men, irrespective of the rate of pay.

RETURN OF TROOPS—LOYAL SUFFOLK HUSSARS.

Mr. PRICE (Norfolk, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any probability of the early recall of the Loyal Suffolk Hussars.

Mr. BRODRICK: I am not yet in a position to say when these men will be recalled.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: Why not replace them by the Household Brigade?

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—TERMS OF SERVICE.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the period of service of the members of the Imperial Yeomanry who volunteerd for war was understood to be for one year, that members of this force volunteered for the war on the faith of that understanding, and that some of them who so volunteered left situations in this country which cannot be kept open for them much longer, whether he can explain why the Imperial Yeomanry, in breach of the understanding on which they volunteered, have been detained in South Africa while other Volunteers who went under similar conditions, and Regulars, notably the Household Cavalry, whose service has been shorter, have been allowed to return home, and whether the War Office will give an intimation to these men that they will be immediately recalled.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member is mistaken. The men were enlisted for a year or until the conclusion of the war. Every consideration will be shown to them which is compatible with the public service.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Why were the Household Brigade allowed to come home before the irregulars?

MR. BRODRICK: I answered that question last Friday.*

PAY OF YEOMANRY AT THE FRONT.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the pay of the Yeomanry serving at the front has been reduced to cover the cost of their rations or for any other cause.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member's question is not understood. Nothing is known of any such reduction.

SOLDIERS IN HOSPITAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state approximately the number of troops at present in hospital in South Africa.

MR. BRODRICK: The House has been informed on previous occasions that as the numbers vary from day to day, and as we receive no telegraphic information about them, it is not practicable to give the required information. The last Report, dated 8th March, 1901, showed 13,993.

MILITARY PRESS CENSORS AND FALSE NEWS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the letter of Captain H. G. Classon, South Wales Borderers, the officer in command of the post captured at Modderfontein, contradicting the statement in a Reuter's cablegram dated Krugersdorp, 2nd February, that Dr. Walker, who was amongst the killed at Modderfontein, had received three bullet wounds and was finally despatched by a Boer, who battered in his skull with a stone, and stating that Dr. Walker was hit only once by a stray bullet and died in the afternoon from the effects of the wound, and that the Boer General expressed his deep regret at the occurrence, and that every possible kindness was shown to the wounded British soldiers by the Boers; and what explanation has the War Office to give for the permission of the Military Press Censor to pass this Reuter's telegram.

MR. BRODRICK: I believe that statements to this effect have appeared in the press. Military press censors are not in any way responsible for the accuracy of the facts alleged in telegrams passed by them. Their duty is limited to the prevention of the publication of statements or intelligence which may assist the enemy.

CIVILIAN HOSPITAL ORDERLIES.

MR. GUTHRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the number of civilians, exclusive of doctors and natives, employed in the private, field, and stationary hospitals during the course of the war; and seeing that many of these men threw up lucrative positions in order to volunteer for service, that the pay they received was by no means equal to what they were previously earning at home, and that some of them have not been reinstated in the positions they occupied before the war, he will reconsider his determination not to allow these men the same war gratuity that is to be awarded to the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who performed exactly similar work.

MR. BRODRICK: About 860 civilians exclusive of doctors and nurses, were employed in the private hospitals, including the hospital ships "Princess of Wales" and "Maine"; these were not paid from Government funds. About 1,600 men of the St John Ambulance Brigade were employed by Government under a civil contract; and as part of their remuneration they receive a gratuity equal to, or in case of those re-engaged, exceeding the war gratuity received by the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Only civilians who have enlisted into one of the local medical corps in South Africa are entitled to the war gratuity. The House will understand that it is not feasible to grant the war gratuity to men serving on civil engagements. Such a course would expose the Government to endless claims on the part of civilians employed on other semi-military service during the campaign.

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* See page 780.

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS SERVING AS TROOPERS.

Lieut.-Col. PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a senior subaltern of the 4th Volunteer Battalion "The Queen's" (Royal West Surrey Regiment), on having volunteered and been accepted as a trooper in the Imperial Yeomanry, was compelled to resign his commission; and whether it is obligatory on an officer of Volunteers desiring to serve either as a non-commissioned officer or private in the Imperial Yeomanry or in a Volunteer Active Service Company in South Africa to resign his commission in his Volunteer corps.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): Yes, Sir; I am aware of the case. It is obviously impossible to permit any person to occupy the position of officer and soldier at the same time. Any Imperial Yeoman, or other soldier so situated, will, when discharged from his present engagement, be considered for reinstatement without loss of seniority.

INSUBORDINATION — UNDER-AGE RECRUITS — CASE OF MICHAEL McMAHON.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the case of Michael McMahon, now a prisoner in Gosport gaol, whose offence was that he struck a sergeant, who he alleges struck him first, for going for a drink of water at the Modder River; is he aware that this boy joined the County Limerick Militia without the consent of his widowed mother, when he was not fifteen years old, that he volunteered into the 3rd Royal Munster Fusiliers, and was sent to South Africa, and in ten weeks marched 800 miles; and whether, taking this boy's age into account, and the fact that he has already spent five months in prison, he will take his case into consideration with a view of remitting the remainder of his sentence.

Lord STANLEY: It is presumed that No. 6449, Private Michael McMahon, 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, is the man referred to. He was tried by general court-martial on November 11th for striking his superior officer, and again on November 13th for disobeying the lawful command of a superior officer, and was sentenced to one year for the first offence, and to one year and discharge with ignominy for the second. Nothing is known about the statements made in the second paragraph of the question. He stated his age at seventeen, and had the physical equivalents. As to the final paragraph, the Commander-in-Chief decided about a fortnight ago to make a partial remission of his imprisonment, contingent on his good behaviour in prison.

Mr. JOYCE: Is it not the fact that this boy when sentenced was under sixteen years of age, and that he was a mere schoolboy fighting the battles in South Africa?

Lord STANLEY: He gave his age as seventeen and looked like it.

Mr. JOYCE: If I can prove he was under sixteen at the time sentence was passed, will the noble Lord see that the remainder of his punishment is remitted?

[No answer was given.]

Mr. T. M. HEALY: When does the noble Lord expect to give me the particulars of sentences on soldiers in South Africa about which I have several times questioned him?

Lord STANLEY: I am afraid I cannot answer that. It hardly arises out of the question.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: How many Irish soldiers have you in gaol?

[No answer was given.]

SOLDIERS' DEPENDENTS—CASE OF GEORGE POWELL.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will take the case of the wife and children of George Powell, R.A., No, 82,930, into his consideration, seeing that this man has over ten years good service, never had a crime, that he married without leave in 1893, and that his wife lived with him in Woolwich until he was sent to South Africa, leaving his wife with three children at home with a very small sum allotted to them from his pay, quite insufficient to keep them; and, whether, if on inquiry this woman's statement is found to be correct, he will order such increase in the pay as will keep herself and her children.

Lord STANLEY: If this soldier would have been entitled to transfer to the Reserve had no war taken place, his wife can be given separation allowance; but no separation allowance can be given to the wives of men married without leave who are not on the strength of the regiment.

Mr. JOYCE: Will the noble Lord inquire if this man's commanding officer did not promise that his wife should be placed on the strength of the regiment? Will he increase the grant to her?

Lord STANLEY: If there is any question of hard treatment in the matter I shall be most happy to take it into consideration.

RETURNED SOLDIERS' CIVILIAN SUITS.

Mr. ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the contract price for the civilian suit which the Government presents to each soldier on his return to civilian life has recently been reduced from 12s. 9d. to 11s. 9d.; and, if so, what precautions are taken that the contractor can make a reasonable profit and pay a reasonable wage.

Lord STANLEY: The old rate of 11s. 9d., which was temporarily raised owing to the increase in price of the raw material, has now been reverted to. The War Office has nothing to do with the profits of a contractor, but only insists that the wages paid in the execution of the contract shall be those generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district.

Mr. ALLEN: In view of the price, which cannot be termed extravagant, will the noble Lord see that the wage regulations are strictly enforced?

Lord STANLEY: Certainly not.

ROYAL ENGINEER CORPS ADJUTANTS.

Mr. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether all the Royal Engineer Corps in the Home district have been without the services of adjutants from the Regular forces for at least a year; and, if so, can he state when it is proposed to remedy this state of things.

Lord STANLEY: It is not possible to provide adjutants from the Regular forces until the Royal Engineer officers return from South Africa. Their work has been meanwhile performed by acting adjutants selected from the Volunteer corps concerned.

Mr. HARRY SAMUEL: Seeing that the Volunteer adjutants have done the work so well, cannot they be given the temporary rank of captain in the Army?

Lord STANLEY: I am afraid that that does not arise out of the question on the Paper.

ARMY MANŒUVRES.

Colonel WYNDHAM MURRAY (Bath): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what Army manœuvres are proposed to be carried out this year.

MR. BRODRICK: There will be no Army manœuvres in 1901, but only some district camps for tactical exercises.

MR. FLYNN: Are the manœuvres in South Africa enough for the British troops just now?

VOLUNTEERS—CLASS FIRING.

COLONEL ROYDS (Rochdale): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if, having regard to the scarcity of range accommodation in parts of the country and the distance rifle butts are frequently from the quarters of Volunteers, he will consider the relaxation of the condition requiring the completion of class firing before going into camp, bearing especially in mind that some camps have for local reasons to be held early in the musketry season.

MR. BRODRICK: The special circumstances of any particular corps in any particular year will be given careful consideration. But the military authorities strongly deprecate any amendment of the regulations in the direction suggested.

ARMY COMMISSIONS—PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS.

MAJOR RASCH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed to modify the requirements of the War Office as to height and weight of gentlemen competing for commissions in the Regular forces.

MR BRODRICK: The physical standards for candidates for commissions in the Regular forces are under consideration.

EXPLOSIVES COMMITTEE—PATENTS TAKEN OUT IN MEMBERS' NAMES.

MR WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that two of the members of Lord Rayleigh's Committee on Explosives are taking out patents in their own names for improvements in detonators and nitro-explosives for artillery; and whether this action is consistent with their position as members of the Committee on which they are serving.

MR. BRODRICK: Sir William Roberts-Austen and Sir William Crookes, members of the Explosives Committee, have taken out patents in connection with explosives. These patents were taken out with my authority. The specifications were prepared by the patent expert of the War Office, and have been assigned to the Secretary of State for War, the arrangements having been made by the Treasury Solicitor, and the specifications are kept secret. These gentlemen having, in the course of their experiments as members of the Committee made certain discoveries which the Committee considered might prove of value to the State, placed their discoveries unreservedly at the disposal of His Majesty's Government. They have not received, nor do they desire to receive, any payment for the discoveries so made. They have not got, nor do they intend to get, any personal profit out of them. The only reason why the patents have been taken out is that the Committee may not be debarred by some subsequent inventor from making use of their own results. It is obvious that, unless the Government directs either the publication or the patenting of such discoveries as they are made, this danger cannot be avoided. The Committee are studiously careful to avoid everything approaching to appropriation of discoveries communicated to them by inventors.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Have these gentlemen dealt with the foreign rights in the patents?

MR. BRODRICK: So far as the Government think it necessary to obtain the foreign rights, the question of those rights will be considered.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Was there not a similar transaction with reference to the invention of cordite?

[No answer was returned.]

REPORT ON CONTINENTAL RIFLE RANGES.

COLONEL WYNDHAM MURRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the officers who went abroad last year to inspect Continental rifle ranges have reported; and, if so, whether the Report will be laid before Parliament.

LORD STANLEY: The answer to both questions is—Yes, Sir.

DURR WATER-TUBE BOILERS.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state how many Durr water-tube boilers have been ordered from Germany; what is the total cost of same; whether the cost includes fitting on board; what vessel are they to be fitted in; and if any guarantee is given to the Admiralty by the patentees for results in continuous steaming; also, what is the nature of the defects developed in the Belleville boilers during the last trials of His Majesty's ship "Formidable."

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): Eight water-tube boilers of the Durr type have been ordered from Germany. The total cost of the boilers is £19,450. This is exclusive of spare parts and fitting on board. The boilers are to be placed on board H.M.S. "Medusa." They have been guaranteed by the maker to give 155,000 lbs. dry steam per hour from feed water at 80 deg. F., with an air pressure of 1½ inches; 104,000 lbs. per hour with ½ inch air pressure (that used for continuous steaming); and 80,000 lbs. per hour with natural draught. The only defects observed in the boilers of H.M.S. "Formidable" on recent trials were one nickel sleeve in number ten boiler at the junction of the feed collector with the element split, and a few others leaking slightly. The trial and the preliminary trial showed that greater provision for the moving of the steam pipes under expansion was required, and steps are now being taken to remedy the defect arising from this cause.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Why is not the "Formidable" at sea if the defects are so slight?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Owing to the expansion of the steam pipes it has been found necessary to make a readjustment, which, as the hon. Member knows, is a serious piece of work.

CHINA—FIRE AT PEKING PALACE.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government have received an official confirmation of the recent fire at the Peking Palace; whether any evidence as to the cause of the conflagration has been discovered; and whether any estimate of the damage done to the palace and its contents can be given.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): His Majesty's Government have learned from His Majesty's Minister at Peking with very great regret that a part of the palace which was occupied by Field Marshal Count von Waldersee and his staff was burnt down on the night of the 17th instant, and that General Schwarzkoff, the Chief of the Staff, most unfortunately lost his life on that occasion. The origin of the fire was unknown. His Majesty's Government have not received any estimate of the damage done.

INDEMNITY CLAIMS OF THE VARIOUS POWERS.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the indemnity demanded by Great Britain from China amounts to £5,000,000; and, if not, whether he can yet state the amount to be demanded; and, whether such indemnity includes the amounts due as compensation to private persons.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The amount of the British claim is not yet finally settled. It will include amounts due as compensation to private persons.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the indemnity asked from China by Russia is over £17,000,000, whereas the indemnity asked by Germany and England amount to only £7,000,000 and £5,000,000 respectively; and whether the Russian Government have offered to reduce their indemnity if the Russo-Chinese agreement regarding Manchuria be adopted by China.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: It is not possible to give positive information as to the amounts of the indemnities claimed by other Governments, as with the exception of the United States' claim for twenty million dollars the amounts have not been finally specified by the Powers concerned. His Majesty's Government are not yet in a position to state the exact amount of the British claim. We have no information of an offer by the Russian Government to reduce their claim if the Chinese Government accept the proposed Manchurian agreement.

CHINA, RUSSIA, AND JAPAN.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information as to reported negotiations between Russia and Japan for the independent settlement of Chinese questions.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Government have no information of any such negotiations.

PLANS OF PEKING.

Mr. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the further correspondence respecting events at Peking, China, No. 3, 1901, was issued without the three plans being printed along with it, which were sent with it by our Minister in Peking; and whether, seeing the value such plans are, he will order them to be printed forthwith and distributed amongst the Members along with the other Papers on China.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: The plans will be ready for distribution in about ten days, if the House desires to have them.

CRETE—PAPERS ON ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government will communicate to the House the Report of the High Commissioner of Crete upon the administration of that island for the past two years, together with the remarks of the British Consul at Candia upon that Report, and any other information which in the public interest may now be made known.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: Papers respecting the administration and financial condition of Crete up to the end of last year are nearly ready for presentation, and will be distributed very shortly. No Report such as is mentioned in the question is, however, included amongst them.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KING'S ACCESSION—SPECIAL MISSIONS TO FOREIGN COURTS.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total number and the estimated cost of the Special Missions which have been sent to foreign Courts to announce the King's Accession; what are the precedents for this procedure; and whether, considering the present national burdens and the improved modern means of communication, some more economical method of conveying the information might not have been arranged.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: Four Special Embassies proceeded abroad to announce the King's Accession. The accounts have not yet been received, and no estimate of the cost can at present be given. There are no precedents for the despatch of such Missions from this country, but the arrangements for conveying the announcement were made in conformity with the practice now generally observed on the accession of a Sovereign.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any negotiations are about to be entered into with France in reference to her claims in Newfoundland.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: His Majesty's Government is in communication with the French Government on the subject of the Newfoundland Fisheries question.

OLD AGE PENSIONS IN THE COLONIES.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Paper he promised some time ago in reference to the old age pension question in the colonies has yet been published; and whether copies will be supplied to Members of the House.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The New Zealand Acts and Reports and the New South Wales Act, referred to in the answer which I gave to the hon. Member last February, have already been placed in the Library of the House; copies of the Acts passed in Victoria will now be similarly placed, but no further Reports on the working of these colonial schemes have since been received.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will they also be distributed among Members?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir; I do not think that that is necessary.

NEW COAL DUTY—RUNNING CONTRACTS.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in the event of the Finance Act of the year being so framed as to make a provision making a person who made a contract in this country for the sale of coal abroad to break his contract unless the person with whom he made the contract abroad were willing to pay the 1s. Customs Export Duty, such last-mentioned person would be bound by such a provision, or whether he might still take proceedings abroad to enforce the performance, or to recover damages for the non-performance of the original contract.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The hon. Member asks me what would happen if a hypothetical clause, which is not yet before the House, became law in the case of a contract, with the provisions of which I am not acquainted. I am afraid that if I were a lawyer I should be very careful not to answer such a question; not being a lawyer I cannot.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: What has the right hon. Gentleman to say to the suggestion made last Friday that the colliery proprietors of this country should be enabled to break their contracts in cases——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is debating the question.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydfil): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state approximately the quantity of coal sold for exportation abroad during the financial year ending 31st March, 1902, under contracts entered into before the 19th April last.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am not in possession of the information referred to.

COAL OUTPUT OF BRITISH COLONIES.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state what was the approximate output of coal of the British colonies in the year 1900, and what was the approximate total amount of coal exported from these colonies in the year referred to.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The latest statistics available are those for 1899, in which year the output of coal from the British colonies amounted to 12,003,705 tons, and the exports, which include re-exports, to 4,509,822 tons.

UNCLAIMED BALANCES RETURN.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will grant the Return as to unclaimed balances in Government Departments appearing on this day's Paper.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am afraid the Return cannot be given. I will write to the hon. Member and explain the objections to giving it.

UNCLAIMED CHANCERY FUNDS.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state what is the total amount received by the Treasury in respect of unclaimed moneys since the date of the Act of 1872 (35 and 36 Vic.) Court of Chancery Funds (c. 44).

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The only funds in the possession of the Chancery and other Courts which can be described as unclaimed funds are the so-called Dormant Funds—that is, funds which have not been dealt with for fifteen years and upwards. A list of these funds is published triennially in the *London Gazette.* The last list was issued in 1899. These funds are held by the Paymaster General subject to the orders of the Supreme Court. None of them are held by the Treasury.

LICENSING LEGISLATION—THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can now inform the House when he will introduce the Bill for the amendment of the Licensing Laws which was promised in the King's Speech at the beginning of the session.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

MR. OSMOND-WILLIAMS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that English salesmen are being driven out of Smithfield Market by Dutch and American traders; that within the past few weeks several transfers have been allowed by the Markets Sub-Committee; and that in one case the sum of £16,000 was paid by American traders to acquire a stall in Central Avenue at Smithfield, and that another American firm paid £12,500 for an inferior position; whether there are any regulations in Smithfield which prohibit trafficking in market sites; and whether something can be done to put a stop to foreign firms ousting the English, Irish, and Scotch traders from their own market.

*MR. RITCHIE: It appears to be the fact that transfers of the tenancies of premises in Smithfield Market frequently take place, and during the last fifteen months there have been two cases which correspond more or less to the description at the end of the first paragraph of the question. Regulations require that a full disclosure of the terms and of the nature and extent of the trade and all other facts and circumstances connected with any proposed transfer shall be made to the Central Markets Committee, and I am informed that this is done in every case. I am not aware that it is correct to say that English salesmen are being driven out by Dutch and American tradesmen. Subject to the approval of the Corporation these transfers appear to be conducted according to the principles ordinarily governing the disposal of the goodwill of a business. In any case I have no powers of interference.

IRISH LIGHTS—FASTNET ROCK.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the reasons why the Irish Lights Commissioners refuse permission to British shipowners to establish and maintain at their own cost a reporting station on the Fastnet Rock, which is desired by Lloyds, the Chamber of Shipping, several large steamship owners' associations, and the Cork Harbour Commissioners, on the ground that the Fastnet being the point for which all ships make in following the southern route across the Atlantic, is the most suitable reporting station; and whether the difficulties which formerly arose owing to the breaking of the telegraph cable being now removed by wireless telegraphy, he will use his influence with the Irish Lights Commissioners to establish a reporting station on the Fastnet as early as practicable.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Board of Trade have been in communication with the Irish Lights Commissioners on this matter. The latter are at present considering the best arrangements to be made for housing the additional light-keepers on the Tuskar and Fastnet Lighthouses, which will be necessary for the establishment of a system of private signalling. The difficulties are very considerable, both on this point and as regards the method of signalling, but the consideration of the subject will be pressed forward.

HOG ISLAND CHANNEL—DANGER TO NAVIGATION.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that six years ago a Greek brig put into Kilrush for repairs and was waterlogged outside the Shannon and became a total wreck off Cappa pier; that the wreck was sold by auction and the purchaser has never been able to float her, and owing to a storm several sections of the wreck drifted up the channel between Hog Island and the mainland, and are a danger to navigation and prevent the bay being fished for salmon; and will he take steps to have these portions of the wreck removed.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Neither the Board of Trade nor the Commissioners of Irish Lights have any information as to the wreck in question. I will cause inquiry to be made of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners, within whose jurisdiction the wreck is probably situated.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY BILLS.

*MR. REA (Gloucester): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the multiplication of the private Bills of companies established for the distribution of electrical energy, he intends to promote legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Joint Committee of 1898 to confer additional powers upon the Board of Trade, to enable the promoters of such Bills to acquire the necessary powers by means of Provisional Orders instead or by private Acts.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The recommendations of the Joint Committee have not been lost sight of, but I am unable to make any definite statement at present.

DEATH CERTIFICATES—CASE OF LILY GRAVES.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the certificate of death given in the case of a certain Lily Graves, whether he is aware that it is alleged that the certificate was so far false that it omitted a material circumstance, and that the Registrar General has been asked, and has declined to take any action in respect of such allegation; and whether the Home Secretary will take steps, either in regard to this particular certificate or generally, to safeguard the accuracy of certificates of death.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this question. The reply to the first two paragraphs is in the affirmative. As regards the third paragraph, I have no authority to interfere in the matter, but I may state that the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1874, provides that any person who wilfully makes a false certificate for the purpose of the Act shall be liable to a penalty. There can be no doubt that the omission from the certificate of death of the fact that the deceased person died while under the influence of an anæsthetic is to be regretted but I understand that the Registrar General was not satisfied that the omission constituted a definite offence against the Act, and that under all the circumstances of the case he did not consider that any action could usefully be taken by him, more especially as the matter was not brought under his notice until eight months after the death occurred.

OVERCROWDING IN EAST LONDON—PAUPER ALIENS.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether in the Census Returns it will be possible, with a view to supplying reliable information on the question of overcrowding in East London, to provide tabulated information as to the number of one to six-roomed tenements, and the number of their respective occupants; and whether it is possible to include an accurate Return of the number of pauper aliens within the Metropolitan area.

MR. WALTER LONG: Information as to the number of tenements consisting of one, two, three, and four rooms, with the number of occupants of each will be given, but it will not be possible to supply similar information with respect to tenements of five and six rooms. The answer to the second paragraph of the question must be in the negative.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the number of poor law officers in receipt of superannuation allowances and the total amount of these allowances in the year 1895, and what has been the increase, if any, in the number of officers receiving pensions, and the increase of the amount of the pensions since the passing of the Poor Law Superannuation Act of 1896.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not in possession of the particulars desired as regards the year 1895, but in the year ended at Lady Day, 1897, the pensions paid to poor law officers otherwise than under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, amounted to £40,800. The number of poor law officers to whom pensions under the Act of 1896 were granted during the year ended 29th September, 1897, was 335, and the number to whom pensions were paid in the year ended 29th September, 1900, was about 1,340. The amount paid under the Act of 1896 during the year ended Michaelmas, 1897, was £19,800, and during the year ended Michaelmas, 1900, was about £74,500.

POLICE AND SANITARY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE.

*MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state the reasons which have prompted him to abstain from moving for the appointment of a Select Committee on Police and Sanitary Regulations Bills, contrary to the practice of many years.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): It has been decided not to reappoint the Committee.

*MR. M'KENNA: What is the reason for that?

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: There are several, but a sufficient one is that the number of Bills during the last year or two has so largely increased that it has been found most difficult to get a Committee to undertake the onerous work involved in the consideration of the Bills.

*MR. M'KENNA: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that at least ten hon. Members have volunteered to serve on the Committee?

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: That may be, but the hon. Member must be aware that at many of the sittings at which he acted as Chairman last year only two Members attended, and not always the same two. The matter has been very carefully considered by the Local Government Board and by others concerned, who have come to the conclusion that it would be better in the public interest to remit the duty to the ordinary Committees.

*MR. M'KENNA: The Committee over which I had the honour of presiding consisted of five members. The quorum was three. The usual attendance was of four members, and on many occasions all five were present.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! This discussion cannot be carried on by question and answer.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Who is now to do the work hitherto done by the Committee?

*MR. SPEAKER: Notice must be given of that question.

EDUCATION—REX v. COCKERTON.

MAJOR EVANS-GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in view of the Cockerton judgment, he can reassure the minds of those concerned regarding the immediate or eventual closing of the evening continuation classes; and whether the Government propose to take any steps to prevent the closing of these classes.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): I fear that no statement of mine will reassure the minds of those who have been persuaded to expect the immediate or eventual closing of evening continuation schools; but no communications have reached the Board of Education which lead it to anticipate so disastrous an event. The Government await the decision of the London School Board as to an appeal to the House of Lords before considering what action on their part is necessary.

WIMBLEDON SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the temporary accommodation provided by voluntary effort at Wimbledon has been condemned as insanitary, and that the plans proposed for new schools have been rejected by the local sanitary authority; and whether he will, without further delay, secure the provision of suitable and sufficient school accommodation by forming a school board in accordance with the wishes of the ratepayers as expressed at the statutory meeting held in July last.

SIR J. GORST: No, Sir; the Board of Education has no such information. The necessity for forming a school board has not yet arisen.

SWANSEA POSTAL STAFF.

SIR GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea Town): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the case of a sorting clerk at Swansea of ten years standing, promoted recently over the heads of telegraph clerks with services ranging from twelve to twenty-four years service; whether the sorting clerk has been passed over in his own department; and whether the Postmaster General can state the reasons which led to this promotion.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The case to which the hon. Member refers is presumably that of Mr. A. E. Samuel, who was recently promoted from the rank of sorting clerk and telegraphist on the postal side of the Swansea office to a clerkship, the duties of which are partly postal and partly telegraph. Mr. Samuel was certified to be the best qualified officer on the whole class of sorting clerks and telegraphists, and he is fully competent to perform the duties, both postal and telegraph, of the post to which he has been promoted. It is true that he had been on one occasion passed over for promotion on the postal side, there being at the time among the juniors one officer who was better qualified.

LEDBURY -- EX-POSTMAN'S GRIEVANCE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if the case of W. Chambers, of Ledbury, who for thirty-two years was employed as an unestablished rural postman, and who had received six good conduct stripes, comes within the terms of the service rule regulating the grant of compassionate allowances or bonuses, instead of pension; and, if so, will this man be granted a bonus.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Although Chambers had altogether more than thirty-one years service, his wages were paid out of an allowance to the postmaster up to the 9th November, 1889, and until that date, therefore, he was a servant, not of the Department, but of the postmaster. Chambers's service subsequent to November, 1889, did not amount to fifteen years—the minimum period necessary to render him eligible for the award of a compassionate gratuity under the Superannuation Act, 1887—and it was not possible, therefore, to obtain for him on his retirement any award under the Superannuation Acts.

HEBDEN BRIDGE—POSTMEN'S GRIEVANCES.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the number of relatives holding appointments on the same staff, he will inquire into complaints made by the postmen at the Hebden Bridge Post Office of the undue interference of the postmaster's wife, she acting as paid assistant to her husband.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The case to which the hon. Member refers appears to be one in which two of the postmen attached to the Hebden Bridge office refused to accept instructions given to them by the postmaster's wife, who is employed as his assistant. In this refusal the postmen were not justified. Full Reports have been made on the case, and the Postmaster General sees no reason to take any further action at present.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General if it is necessary for a district councillor elected in March, 1901, who is absent on active service in South Africa, to make his declaration of office or attend the council within six months or any other period from the date of his election; or whether the Act 63 and 64 Vic., c. 46, applies to his case.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The Act 63 and 64 Vic., c. 46, applies to the case of an officer or soldier of the Auxiliary forces or Reserve forces who is on service in South Africa, so that no vacation of office or pecuniary penalty results from omission to make the declaration of office within the prescribed time or his non-attendance at the meetings of the council caused by absence in South Africa on service.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE: Do I understand the hon. and learned Gentleman to say it applies to councillors elected since it was passed?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I think so, Sir.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—CASE OF SERGEANT JAMES SULLIVAN.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Sergeant James Sullivan, late of Mulranny, county Mayo, has recently been suspended from duty; and, if so, what was the charge on which he was suspended.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Sergeant Sullivan was suspended from duty pending the investigation of a charge preferred against him of having assaulted a married woman. The result of investigation showed that there was no evidence to sustain the charge, and tended to prove that it was fabricated. The suspension has been removed and the sergeant entirely exonerated from the imputation brought against him.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman give us access to the evidence?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. The evidence was submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown, who had no hesitation in saying there was no case for prosecution. I have been through the evidence, and come to the same conclusion. I have no doubt whatever that the charge was fabricated.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Are we not told that all charges against policemen are fabrications?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH CREAMERIES.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if the money placed at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture is about being used for the support of creameries in Ireland; and, if so, whether, instead of such expenditure, he will consider the advisability of encouraging farmers by supplying them with loans to procure separators to be used by their families, and thereby encourage home industry.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first query is in the negative. The Department is considering the question of making loans to farmers to enable them to purchase separators.

LABOURERS (IRELAND) ACT—APPLICATIONS IN GRANARD UNION.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any complaints were made to him of the loss sustained by rural district councils by the rejection of numbers of representations under the Labourers Acts, each of which had cost a considerable sum to bring before the inspector at the local inquiry; and whether, in the case of the Granard Union, county Longford, he can state the number of cottages applied for, the number rejected, and the principal grounds on which a number were rejected.

MR. WYNDHAM: Complaints are sometimes made of the rejection by the Board, after a local inquiry, of applications for cottages, but not on the ground suggested. The applications from the Granard Union numbered 387, and the rejections 217. These were on the usual grounds—namely, informality of representations, defective service of notices, the applicants were not agricultural labourers, etc.

IRISH UNION NURSES.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is yet in a position to make any statement as to the intention of the Irish Government to give facilities for the training of a certain number of girls in each union who could afterwards be employed as qualified nurses on the basis of getting back half the salary; and, if so, whether this change could be included in a Provisional Order to be confirmed by Parliament.

MR. WYNDHAM: I can make no promise beyond that already given. The matter will not be lost sight of, but nothing can be done on this year's Estimates.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in view of the urgency of this matter, he will take any steps to press this matter on this session, say before Whitsuntide?

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not pledge myself to the opinion that the money should be voted, but at any rate I cannot approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer this year.

KILLARNEY QUARTER SESSIONS.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that it is the usual practice when there is no criminal business for disposal at quarter sessions to have the presiding judge presented with white gloves, he can explain the non-performance of this ceremony by the sheriff at the last Killarney Quarter Sessions; and whether, having regard to the fact that the Killarney quarter sessions district comprises that part of the county of Kerry where the United Irish League has most branches, and to the crimelessness of the district, he will give instructions to the constabulary to desist from interfering with or watching those who attend the meetings of the United Irish League in future.

MR. WYNDHAM: The sub-sheriff was unable to attend at the opening of the quarter sessions, but presented the chairman with white gloves later in the day. The police do not interfere with persons attending the meetings of the League. They carry out detective duties incumbent upon all police forces with a discretion which calls for no further admonition on the part of the Government.

CORK CITY CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Recorder of Cork was presented with a pair of white gloves at the recent City Criminal Sessions; and whether there is any record of a similar presentation previous to the establishment of the United Irish League in the city of Cork.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative The incident was unprecedented, and eminently satisfactory. I have, however, failed to trace any causal connection between it and the operations of the League.

UNCLAIMED BALANCES IN IRISH BANKS.

MR. O'SHEE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has any means of information as to the amount of unclaimed balances in joint stock banks in Ireland; if not, whether there is any obligation in law on such banks to give public notice as to unclaimed balances which have remained on their hands.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to each of these questions is in the negative.

IRISH LABOURERS—PRIZES FOR INDUSTRY.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board will sanction the giving of small prizes (the value of which shall not exceed for each electoral division a limited sum) out of the rates to labourers holding cottages and plots of land from the rural district councils, with the view of encouraging the occupiers to keep their cottages and plots in good order.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board has no legal power to authorise rural district councils to expend any portion of their funds in the manner proposed. I am inquiring whether the Department of Agriculture is in a position to make payments for the purpose.

IRISH ROAD SYSTEM.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say when the Provisional Order legalising the system of direct labour on the roads in Ireland will become law, so that the county councils in the country may be in a position to work the roads under the said system.

MR. WYNDHAM: The final draft of the Provisional Order is now under consideration, and the Order will be laid before Parliament within the next fortnight. The delay is due to the fact that county and district councils have been given an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon the draft Order.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will the right hon. Gentleman allow the House to discuss this Order before it is confirmed?

MR. WYNDHAM: A question of that kind should be addressed to the Leader of the House. I am following the usual course in laying the Order on the Table, and no doubt there will be adequate opportunity of discussing it.

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN TUBBERCURRY.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the fact that the rural district of Tubbercurry, county Sligo, although contributing its quota towards the promotion of agricultural and technical education in that county, is excluded by the Department of Agriculture from participating in the benefits of the scheme adopted by the county committee, on the ground that portion of the union is scheduled as a congested area; and whether, seeing that the other rural districts of the county are similarly circumstanced, being partly scheduled, he can explain why Tubbercurry, a purely agricultural district, has been thus treated; and what steps will be taken to have the matter remedied.

MR. WYNDHAM: I must refer the hon. Member to my reply of 1st April.* It has been found necessary to exclude from the live-stock schemes districts which are mainly congested, upon the ground that many of them object to pay for a service which they can obtain without payment from the Congested Districts Board. That being so, the Tubbercurry district will not be asked to rate itself for the live-stock scheme.

DAVID FINLAY'S ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, can he state on what date the tenants on the estate of the late David Finlay and others, situate in the county of Cavan, signed agreements to purchase their holdings through the Irish Land Commission; on what date were these agreements lodged with the Irish Land Commission; and what were the reasons that these agreements had not been lodged at an earlier date.

MR. WYNDHAM: No proceedings for the sale of the estate referred to in the question are pending in the Land Commission.

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* See page 361.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON WATER CHARGES.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board have received from the Carrick-on-Shannon No. 1 District Council representations to have the charge for the Carrick-on-Shannon Waterworks made a township charge, as was the case until the issue of a Sealed Order of the Local Government Board, and whether he can state the grounds on which the Local Government Board will not sanction this charge being a township rate under the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1900.

MR. WYNDHAM: Representations to the effect stated have been received. The grounds upon which the Local Government Board based their action were the same as those which operated generally in regard to the making of the Order of 25th May, 1899, as to the chargeability of rural sanitary expenses. Carrick-on-Shannon is not a town or township under municipal government, and, therefore, not entitled to exceptional treatment.

KERRY EVICTED FARMS.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of evicted farms in Kerry for which special police protection is necessary, the amount of the rent heretofore paid for these farms, and the cost of the police protection now afforded in connection with them.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first query is 47. I have no official information as to the second query. There are no extra police in Kerry, and any expenses involved by the employment of men on protection duty are not, therefore, defrayed out of local rates. It is not practicable to state, with accuracy, the cost of the protection afforded, as the number of men employed s constantly changing.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): Is it a rule of the Irish Constabulary force for policemen to take evicted farms?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

DEFENDANTS' COSTS IN ABANDONED PROSECUTIONS.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if the Government will bear the costs of Messrs. M'Inerney, Halpen, and Lynch in the prosecution against them which the Government did not persevere with to the end.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): There is no power to pay the costs of the accused, nor is this a case where that should be done, even if the power existed.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is it not the fact that the Government initiated the prosecution and then dropped it? Why should it not bear the costs incurred by these gentlemen?

MR. ATKINSON: It is true that the Government took the proceedings and then, at the solicitation of the hon. Member, dropped them.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Were they not dropped in consequence of a judgment delivered by the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland? Why should these men have to pay the cost of defending themselves against accusations which were untrue?

[No answer was returned.]

IRISH POOR RATE COLLECTOR.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether a person who was appointed a poor rate collector prior to the passing of the Local Government Act, 1898, and was an existing officer under that Act, and was continued in office under the county council, is entitled to carry on retail business; and whether a person appointed since the passing of the Local Government Act is precluded from doing so.

MR. ATKINSON: This is a purely abstract question, involving the construction of several orders and statutes. I must, therefore, respectfully object to answer it. If, however, the Member will confine his question to a specific case, I will endeavour to reply to it.

NENAGH URBAN COUNCIL — MR. PATCHELL'S DISQUALIFICATION REPORT.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if his attention has been called to the Report of Mr. Patchell, disqualifying the entire urban council of Nenagh because of the payment of rates for voters under £4 valuation by the Trade Labour Association, on the ground that this was a corrupt practice; and will he lay this Report and the shorthand writer's notes taken at the trial upon the Table for the information of the House.

MR. ATKINSON: It is true that Mr. Patchell held that the payment of rates under the circumstances mentioned was a corrupt practice, and declared void the election of the councillors in whose interest the payment was made. No application was made to have the question of the soundness of the decision in point of law by case stated, or otherwise, reserved for the opinion of the Superior Court. There is no precedent for laying the Reports and the shorthand writer's notes on the Table of the House in such a case as this, and no good purpose could be served by it. In addition, it is now under consideration whether the parties reported guilty of these corrupt practices should not be prosecuted, so that in any event it would be undesirable to have any discussion on the matter at present.

CONTEMPT OF COURT—CASE OF THOMAS EATON.

MR. M'DERMOTT (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Thomas Eaton, of Goresbridge, county Kilkenny, who was committed to prison for contempt of court has now been ten months imprisoned, and that Dr. Waters appeared at the petty sessions to prosecute Eaton as representing the trustees of the estate; and whether he will give instruction that the Crown shall be represented by some solicitor other than Dr. Waters at the forthcoming prosecution of Eliza Eaton.

MR. ATKINSON: At the request of my right hon. friend, I will reply to this question. Thomas Eaton was committed for contempt of court on a writ of attachment issued by the Court of Chancery, the contempt of court consisting of retaking forcible possession of the holding from which he had been evicted. He was imprisoned from the 15th April, 1899, to 19th May, 1899, and again from the 7th June, 1900, to the 30th ultimo. I see no inconsistency in the prosecution of Eliza Eaton for forcible entry being conducted by the Crown Solicitor, Dr. Waters. It is in the interest of public order.

DUBLIN G.P.O.—PROMOTIONS.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will state the number of vacancies existing in the class of superintendents, assistant superintendents, and clerks attached to the sorting office, General Post Office, Dublin; whether he is aware that two positions on the class of superintendents, namely, that of chief clerk to Controller, and that of sub-accounting officer, vacated by the reduction of two officials for irregularities in connection with the Corcoran defalcations, have recently been filled by the promotion of two officials from the surveyor's branch over the heads of officers of the sorting department; whether these promotions are due to statements made by the present Controller when on his defence in the Corcoran case, to the effect that he had no officials in his establishment competent to fill the higher positions; and whether, having regard to the fact that the present Controller and one of the officers concerned in the case are importations, it is the intention to again apply the principle of promoting officials from provincial and English offices.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There are in the sorting office, Dublin, at the present time one vacancy for an assistant superintendent and several on the clerks' list. The two vacancies to which the hon. Member refers, and which were filled by the appointment of officers from outside the Dublin sorting office, were two which existed on the class of superintendents. One of the officers only was from the surveying establishment, the other being from the circulation department in London. These were so filled because the officers selected were considered to be better fitted to carry on the duties to be performed than any of the officers who would in ordinary course be considered as eligible for the appointments. The principles followed in making the promotions referred to are those which would be followed in similar circumstances at any other office of the Department.

FERMOY POST OFFICE.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can explain the cause of delay in the appointment of a medical officer to the post office at Fermoy, for which candidates were invited to make formal applications in June, 1900; and when will the appointment of such medical officer be made.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The delay is owing to the fact that no suitable candidate has applied for the appointment. It is hoped that a suitable candidate may soon be obtained.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: Is it not the fact that several local medical gentlemen have applied for this position on the terms of the requisition sent to them? How then can it be said that there are no suitable candidates?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information beyond that supplied to me by the Postmaster General.

BELTURBET POST OFFICE.

MR. M'GOVERN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the present post office in Belturbet is unfit both as to its position and capacity for the business that has to be transacted in it; and can he state whether the Department have taken any steps to procure a proper site for a new post office; and when they intend to have a new post office erected in a suitable position in the town.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: As the hon. Member was informed on the 4th ultimo, the post office business at Belturbet is being carried on in temporary premises, and a scheme for buying a site and erecting a new building is under consideration. The Postmaster General is still awaiting a report from the Board of Public Works on the subject.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in response to the memorial recently presented to him, signed by 285 Members of the House of Commons, he will afford special facilities to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill, the Second Reading of which was carried by a majority of 318.

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford): May I ask whether my right hon. friend, if he is able to accede to the hon. Member's request, will use his best endeavours to secure that this measure shall be considered in Committee of the Whole House, so that the working classes of the country may understand and appreciate the manner in which it is dealt with.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my hon. friend and my right hon. friend, I have to say that it is not easy, and would, I think, not be convenient at this period of the session, for the Government to make any declaration as to the course they propose to follow with regard to a private Bill. But I can assure my hon. friend that the Government are fully alive to the very great interest which this measure is exciting in the public mind.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I wish to ask the Leader of the House what will be the business to-morrow, and what Supply will be taken on Friday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If, as I earnestly hope, we finish to-night the motion "that the Speaker do now leave the Chair" on the Civil Service Estimates, we shall proceed with the consideration of the Budget resolutions in Committee at the morning sitting to-morrow. If we are not able to finish the motion to-night, I think some public inconvenience will ensue, and that discussion will be continued at the morning sitting to-morrow. Thursday will be devoted to the further consideration, either in Committee or on Report, of the Budget resolutions, and, if we finish that work on Thursday night, the Supply I propose to take on Friday will be Class 3 of the Civil Service Estimates—Law Charges, Police, Prisons, and other Votes.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: When will the resolution of the Secretary of State for War be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Not this week, certainly.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Is it proposed to take the Army Annual Bill to-night?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, after twelve o'clock.

SUPPLY (CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES).

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FOR IRELAND.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I rise to move the resolution which stands in my name. This question has been frequently debated in Senates, Parliament, board rooms, and county council meetings, and on public platforms, with the obvious and necessary conclusion that in this matter Ireland has a real and substantial grievance which ought to be redressed. Very recently, after an animated discussion at the Oxford Union, in which men of the highest culture and intelligence took part, seventeen voted for and only twenty-six against the following resolution—

> "That this House would view with satisfaction the establishment in Ireland of a State-aided Roman Catholic University."

The question has also been debated by distinguished Members of the House of Commons, including the Leader of the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose, the hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick-on-Tweed, and at least one of the Members for Dublin University, also by the King's Representative in Ireland, and other leading public men—all admitting that the Catholics of Ireland are entitled to the same rights and privileges with regard to higher education as are enjoyed by other citizens of the United Kingdom. I trust that the Government, with its huge majority, will grasp this opportunity of settling this question in a statesmanlike manner. I ask Englishmen to be just and liberal towards Ireland in this matter of education. I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I rise to second this resolution, and in doing so I wish to state that I feel that since this great question was last under the attention of the House a revolutionary and vital change has been effected in the political situation as far as higher education in Ireland is concerned. Since the last debate on this question the Government have taken a certain step and made an announcement which so alters the situation as to make it difficult, if not impossible, to debate the question on its merits to-day. Speaking on the 9th of March, in reply to a deputation, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland declared that the Government had decided to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole question of university education. Therefore, any attempt now to argue this question upon its merits would be met by the well-known formula that the subject had been referred to a Royal Commission, and that until that Commission had brought its labours to a close the Government are not in a position to consider the matter. I recognise the situation created by that decision. But whether for good or for evil this great question has now been referred to the Royal Commission, and until that Commission brings its labours to a conclusion and produces a Report, or a litter of Reports, it will not be possible for us to have any real debate upon the merits of the question in this House, whatever may be done by way of agitation outside. Within my memory many great questions have been referred to the tender mercies of Royal Commissions, with the result that they have not been heard of again within the domain of practical politics for many years. I trust and sincerely hope that the result may not be similar in the present instance, but I feel it my duty at the very beginning of this debate to declare, as I now do declare, that the National party who sit upon these benches have no responsibility whatever for the appointment of this Commission. We did not ask for it, and we were not consulted about it. So far as any information has reached me I understand that the Irish hierarchy did not ask for this Commission, and I feel confident that they would not make themselves responsible for its issue without consulting the Irish party. Therefore, the Irish party are free from all responsibility in regard to this policy of referring the question to a Royal Commission, and the National party will retain their freedom of action in the matter whatever course the Commission may adopt. I feel it all the more necessary to emphasise that fact in view of one of the most remarkable and sinister passages which occurs in the speech of the Lord Lieutenant made on the 9th of March. He says—

> "One of my reasons for approving of an inquiry at the present time is this—let us, at all events, come to some decision on this matter. If there is no remedy for the system, if no one can suggest or, rather, if all parties cannot agree upon any proposals which are likely to command the confidence of the public and meet with success—then do not let us continue the controversy, which does not certainly tend to the promotion or improvement of education in Ireland, which, every day it is prolonged, on the contrary, reacts unfavourably in Ireland, and let us acknowledge there is no system under which we can possibly improve higher education in Ireland."

That is a position which the Nationalists are not prepared to take up; and if this Commission succeeds in arriving at a unanimous Report of such a character as would remove, if carried into effect, the grievances of the Irish Catholics, or whether they disagree or produce a litter of Reports, this question will not die, but the Irish party and the people in Ireland who are so deeply interested in it will retain their right to continue the agitation and to demand justice.

As I stated before, this Commission was not asked for either by the National party or by the hierarchy of Ireland. But what body did ask for it? It was asked for by the Senate of the Royal University on the 22nd of February last, when they passed a resolution unanimously asking for this Commission. I will read that resolution to the House, because, as hon. Members will immediately perceive, it is of the very utmost importance. On the 22nd of February last the following resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Senate of the Royal University—

> "That in the opinion of the Senate the relation of the university with its own colleges and students, and with other colleges and students, are unsatisfactory, and that it is most desirable that a Royal Commission should be issued to inquire into the working of this university as an examining and teaching body in relation to the educational needs of the country at large, and to report as to the means by which university education in Ireland might receive a greater extension and be more efficiently conducted than it is at present."

Hon. Members will notice that the resolution consists of two distinct parts. The first portion sets forth the grounds on which the present situation is considered to be unsatisfactory. I must confess that I rejoice at the first portion of the resolution, because everyone who has followed the history of this question in Ireland will agree with me that the language of the opening portion of this resolution is accepted as a condemnation of the whole method and system of the Royal University in Ireland. It appears to me to be a great step in advance in the struggle for true university teaching for the masses of the Irish people, that those who have been responsible for the working of the Royal University system, after twenty years experience, have now had to declare that the system is unsatisfactory, and that they have condemned it. From the earliest days of the foundation of the Royal University, which is over twenty years ago, I have been regarded as a bigot in my hostility upon this question, but I never could bring myself to accept the foundation of the Royal University as a step in the right direction, or as any point gained for the cause of higher education in Ireland. On the contrary, I have always regarded the foundation of the Royal University as a retrograde step, inasmuch as it was the introduction and endowment of a system of higher education in Ireland, which, however much it might commend itself to a number of individuals who were enjoying or hoped to enjoy its money prizes, was bound in the long run to degrade education in Ireland and to discourage and extinguish that high ideal love of learning and higher knowledge, for which Ireland has been distinguished in the past as much as any other nation in Europe. I rejoice, therefore, after twenty years experience, to find that the Senate of the Royal University has condemned the whole system and declared—

> "That the relations of the University to its own colleges and students and to other colleges and students are unsatisfactory."

The truth is, that in drafting and passing the Bill for the establishment of the Royal University in Ireland no one for a moment cared for the interests of education in that country. The whole object was to give something to the Irish Catholics which would bear at all events the semblance of concession without arousing the furious opposition of those sections, both in this country and in Ireland, who are the victims on this question of ignorant bigotry; and so on the occasion of the foundation of the Royal University the interests of the Irish people on the question of higher education were ruthlessly sacrificed, as they have always been sacrificed, to political considerations, and rather low political considerations, throughout the whole century that has gone by. Why in the world sacrifice those interests in order to disarm the hostility of sections of the population who on this question are the victims and the slaves of formulæ based on no real knowledge? I do not think I would be in the least degree exaggerating if I were to affirm that throughout the whole of last century no Irish educational problem was ever considered on its merits, or with a sincere desire for the advancement of true learning in Ireland, until the recent appointments of the two Commissions that sat and inquired into primary and secondary education in Ireland.

If time permitted I should desire to say a few words as to the reasons why those two Commissions were able to deal with the questions of primary and intermediate education. They were enabled to address themselves at once to educational problems, and they were enabled to get their recommendations carried into effect without undue or unreasonable delay. As is well known, the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury takes a sympathetic interest in this question of Irish education, and the truth is that in the case of the two Commissions to which I have alluded, happily for the cause of primary and secondary education in Ireland, the Commissioners approached their task with no political complications to face. In the case of primary and secondary education no great dividing principles existed which had aroused the passions, prejudices, and bigotries of large sections of the population, and the result was that they were enabled to approach the question from the point of view of educational experts, and with the happy results I have already described. If there was any hope that this graver question of university and higher education could be dealt with and settled on the same lines and methods which have been so successfully applied to the case of primary and secondary education, no one would be more rejoiced than I would, because then the Irish party would be relieved of the burden of one of the most difficult and one of the gravest cases they have to handle in this House. We would then be within measurable distance of the time when there would be lifted from the shoulders of the people an intolerable and crushing burden in connection with the provision of that higher education which is becoming daily more and more essential to the existence of the people. Nobody knows better than the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury that unhappily there is no prospect of being able to settle the question of university education so peaceably and quietly. The Lord Lieutenant himself has recognised that in the speech in which he declared that he could not undertake the responsibility of dealing with this by a vice-regal Commission, and thought it should be a Royal Commission of a most influential and weighty character. The reason is very simple. In the case of the University, the question has become mixed up with politics, and at the very outset of their investigations the Commissioners who are to be appointed will be met by great dividing questions of principle, which will make their task one of the greatest possible difficulty. On that point a suggestion has been made which is rather amusing. It is contained in a resolution passed by the Liberal Unionist Association of Belfast, a very intelligent and superior body. What do they suggest? They say—

> "We have observed with satisfaction that on the advice of the Lord Lieutenant the Commission is to be a Royal rather than a viceregal Commission. We infer from this decision that it is the desire of his Excellency and of His Majesty's Government that the Commission should be composed of men of universally acknowledged eminence in educational and public affairs, and who are known to be superior to sectarian and political partisanship. We earnestly urge the Government, whatever pressure to the contrary may be exerted upon them, to adhere resolutely to this constitution of the Royal Commission, as otherwise its conclusions will fail to command respect in any quarter, and will simply result in intensifying the existing confusion in Irish university conditions."

Where are the Government going for these Commissioners? I shall look with curiosity to see. There are Gentlemen in this House whom I trust sincerely may be on that Commission, such as the Members for the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. The members of the Commission must be men of great eminence in science and art, without any prejudice on the question at all. That is the view of the Lord Lieutenant, and he is determined to carry it out. If that is the only practical suggestion, I am afraid we have not got much further on the road.

I wish to say a word on a rather delicate subject—whether this question is really at its present stage ripe for a Commission at all, whether this question in the present political situation can best be dealt with by reference to a Commission. If I were consulted on that matter, as I have not been consulted, I should say that I do not think it is. It appears to me that a better course would be, if it were possible, to agree on the principle on which the Commissioners were to operate; and then, after the precedent of the London University, to appoint a Commission for the working out of details. It appears to me that it would be a far more practical method. I do not myself think that the system of referring the question to a Commission at this stage is the best method of procedure. But I trust that things may turn out better than I am disposed to think they will.

Taking it that a Commission will be appointed in view of the decision of the Cabinet announced by the Lord Lieutenant on the 9th March, two questions force themselves on our attention. First of all, what ought to be the terms of the reference and the scope of the inquiry; and, secondly, what ought to be the composition of the Commission; these are two questions of vital importance, and it seems to me that the debate tonight must turn largely upon them. With regard to the scope of the inquiry, it is manifest from the resolution I have just read that the original demand of the Senate of the Royal University was for the widest possible inquiry, that the Commission should be absolutely unfettered, and that they should have full discretion to make inquiry wherever they thought necessary. That was perfectly plain. The Lord Lieutenant, when waited upon by a deputation from the Senate of the Royal University, declared that a Commission would be granted, and that the terms of the reference would be those indicated in the resolution of the Senate of the Royal University. I would earnestly recommend to hon. Members the reading of the full report of the interview between the Lord Lieutenant and the Senate. No more interesting and important document has been published in the recent history of the Irish University movement. Referring to the fact that the deputation had agreed to the omission of Trinity College, the Lord Lieutenant said—

> "I allude to the great and glorious institution which you have in your midst in Dublin, which is endeared to all Irishmen both by its great traditions and memories, and also by the work which it has done, and I hope will continue to do, for the benefit of education."

And then his Lordship went on to say—

> "I do not believe myself that any such importation as an inquiry into the condition and circumstances and official work of Trinity College, Dublin, could possibly strengthen your hands. I believe, on the contrary, it would alienate from you a great deal of

sympathy—it would alienate the feeling and interest, of which you have heard so much, as to the necessity for such an inquiry."

Now I may say that, differing as I do in general politics from Lord Cadogan, I recognise in him a man who, like the First Lord of the Treasury, has become convinced of the necessity of dealing with this question, and I desire to give him full credit for a sincere and earnest desire to give such a settlement as will be acceptable to the Irish Catholics, always provided that the Orangemen of Ulster will allow him. At first sight, to exclude Trinity College from the scope of an inquiry into the facilities for university education in Ireland seems so absurd as to be incredible. It is precisely on all fours with a proposal to issue a Royal Commission, composed of the best and most influential men in the United Kingdom, to inquire into the general condition of university education in England, with this proviso, that it shall not take into consideration the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. After giving the matter my most careful consideration, absurd as this restriction at first sight seems, I am not at all sure that we Irish Catholics have any strong reason to object to it, and I will explain why. I do not know whether the authorities of Trinity College have thoroughly appreciated what is involved in the exclusion of that institution and of Dublin University from this proposed inquiry; but in the exclusion there is involved the assumption, which lies at the base of the inquiry, that Trinity College is an institution to which Irish Catholics cannot be expected to resort. Otherwise, if that is not the assumption, what could be more grotesque and absurd than to direct a Royal Commission to inquire, with all pomp and ceremony, into the facilities afforded to the people of Ireland for acquiring a university education, and debar it from inquiring into the greatest university in the country! The inference is absolutely irresistible. But I do not need to rely on my own opinions, because the Lord Lieutenant, in his speech in reply to the deputation from the Senate, used these extraordinary and most interesting words—

"But after all, Gentlemen, it would be idle, of course, to ignore the fact that the question of the Catholic grievances, and the alleged—I suppose I must say alleged until they are proved—the alleged injustices under which Catholics suffer with regard to education in this country is the dominant factor in the desire which is at present felt that we should enter into a consideration of perhaps an entire renewal or renovation of the system of university education."

The dominant reason for this attempt to reconstruct the system of education in Ireland is the grievances of the Irish Catholics! But if the Irish Catholics can reasonably be expected to resort to Trinity College, where is the grievance? Therefore, I say beyond all question, that the exclusion of Trinity College from this inquiry is an admission that Irish Catholics cannot reasonably be expected to resort to it.

There is, however, another word to be said. I qualify what I have just said as regards the position of Irish Catholics towards this exclusion by referring to the qualification made by Dr. Healy at the deputation. He agreed that there should be no inquiry into the emoluments, the methods of teaching, or the administration of the funds of Trinity College, but he pointed out that it would be impossible to leave out of mind in this inquiry the existence and wealth of that institution, on which the whole inquiry is, to a large extent, based. With that qualification, I do not care whether this exclusion is persisted in or not. But we are in a very difficult position. As regards this exclusion of Trinity College we are entirely in the dark as to the attitude of the Protestants themselves—that is, the attitude of the Church of Ireland. We have had no indication from the Trinity College authorities as to whether they desire to be excluded, though there is some very remarkable evidence that there is a fluttering in the dove-cotes, and also evidence of the feeling of the Presbyterians of Ireland. When this announcement was made the Higher Education Committee of the Presbyterian Synod passed a resolution protesting in the most violent terms against the exclusion of Trinity College. Here is an extract from a speech delivered at Magee College on 4th April by the Rev. John A. Hamilton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland—

"What changes might be proposed by the Commission on university education, recently promised by the Lord Lieutenant, it was impossible to foresee, and whether any of these would be carried out by the Government it was equally impossible to foretell. But one thing in the statement of his Excellency, he (the Moderator) for his part most deeply regretted—namely, that Trinity College and the University of Dublin were excluded from the inquiry of the Commission. It was surely not statesmanship that an institution which was the creature of the State, and which owed its prestige to its State connection, but which had done so little for the progress of the community in the path of education, should be carefully fenced round and regarded as the inalienable property of one-eighth of the population of the kingdom."

That is rather a serious declaration, I can assure those who take an interest in Trinity College. Now what do we see? Trinity College is beginning to get a little alarmed, and not without some ground. We Irish Catholics have been always liberal and reasonable in our attitude towards Trinity College, but when they hear from the Presbyterians of Ulster they get alarmed. In to-day's *Times* there is a most extraordinary report of a debate at a meeting of the Board of Trinity College, when this wonderful state of things was revealed. The junior fellows presented the following resolution, signed by twenty-two out of their whole number of twenty-five—

> "That the junior fellows wish to urge on the Board the desirability of intimating publicly and officially to the heads of the Roman Catholic Church their readiness to provide facilities for the catechetical and religious instruction of Roman Catholic students by lectures, examinations, and the supervision of their religious observance by clergymen of their own Church, and of inviting their co-operation in drawing up a scheme for securing this."

And then they go on to say—

> "That the junior fellows further urge on the Board the desirability of commencing negotiations with the heads of the Presbyterian Church, with a view to establishing a Presbyterian divinity school, and arranging for Presbyterian religious services in Trinity College."

The next thing we shall have will be an invitation to the Jesuits to set up their camp inside Trinity College. It is a very certain sign that these gentlemen are beginning to see, to use the words of the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, that it is intolerable that this great institution, which for 300 years has absorbed the higher education of Ireland, "should be fenced round and regarded as the inalienable property of one-eighth of the nation"—that one-eighth, moreover, which can very well afford to pay for its university education.

What has been the position of Irish Catholics in this regard for long years? When we agitate this question we speak for three-fourths of the population who have been left out in the cold in the matter of the higher education, while the whole endowments of the past have been plundered from us by confiscation. We have said to Trinity College over and over again—"Unjust and unreasonable as it may be, we Irish Catholics are content to leave you this great property, fenced round and maintained as the exclusive property of an eighth of the population, on one condition—namely, that we are allowed to secure for the three-fourths of the population equal rights, and an institution to which our people can resort, as well endowed and as well equipped as Trinity College, Dublin." But the time has come to address a warning to the governing body and representatives of Trinity College that this offer on the part of the Irish Catholics cannot stand open much longer. It will be an evil day for Trinity College if, as on the land question, the Catholics come to an agreement with the Presbyterians. In view of the very persistent opposition to our moderate claims I think that I may ask, on behalf of the Irish party and the Irish Catholics, from the governing body of Trinity College something more than a cold neutrality on this question. Gratitude for past favours and for favours to come ought to secure their warmest support. Assuming that Trinity College and Dublin University are excluded, two or three questions arise which I would like in all seriousness to ask the First Lord of the Treasury. Is Trinity College to be represented on the Committee? and are the professors of Trinity College to be invited to give evidence before the Committee, while their own institution is excluded from all inquiry? I say that Trinity College (and this is to me a vital question) ought not to be allowed once more to make the monstrous plea, which has been frequently put forward before, that even if we Irish Catholics consent to allow it to go on its own path with its gigantic endowments, its vast revenues, and all its long traditions, no unfair competition shall be set up against it—in other words, that no system of education more available because cheaper to the Irish people, shall be set up in Ireland from fear that it would interfere with its preserves.

Before I pass from Trinity College, Dublin, I must refer to the high eulogium passed upon that great institution by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He said it was deep-seated in the confidence and love of the people of Ireland. I traverse that statement. I say that in Trinity College there is not a spark of Irish spirit. I do not believe it is up to the level, in its general education, of any university of modern Europe, and that is why it is so much afraid of competition. I go further, and say, so far as the true spirit of our people, the true spirit of the old race in Ireland is concerned, Trinity College might as well be located in Birmingham or Manchester as in Dublin. It is not an Irish institution. It is a foreign institution planted in our midst three hundred years ago for the purpose of degrading and putting down our people and catering for the wants of the English garrison in Ireland. For three hundred years it has been faithful to the teaching and spirit of its founders, and treats the Irish people outside its gates as pariahs. Was there ever paraded in any country of the world a more scandalous exhibition of bigotry and anti-national feeling than that paraded by Trinity College in its present bigotry and malignant hatred against the native language? That college, with its ancient fame, has buried in its library most valuable MSS. dating from the time when Ireland shone as the greatest home of learning in Europe. Yet down to yesterday they have turned the cold shoulder to the ancient literature and language of the country in a manner which has been a monstrous scandal, when Trinity College ought to be the centre of all that is great in the intellectual life of the country. That is all I have to say as to Trinity College—it is not an Irish institution. But we are willing to leave Trinity College in undisputed possession of all its great emoluments and equipments, because we feel it is necessary to secure some opening for the unfortunate people for a chance of Irish education, and I would not allow for a moment any bitterness of feeling, such as I now display, or any memory of our wrongs to remain in the way of its receiving those emoluments. What I say is that, bigoted and stereotyped as it is, so far as education is concerned, I would gladly welcome Trinity College if it will only consent to come under the investigations of the Commission, but I maintain that if it is to be excluded from the investigations of this Committee it should be excluded in more ways than one. It should be excluded from seeking to affect the decision of the Commission if it will not submit itself to the Commission. I have said that, in my judgment, and I repeat it, it will be very easy indeed to set up a better system of education in Ireland. It has been the custom, and a very absurd custom, to indulge in extravagant eulogiums with regard to the college. I am ready to admit that it is a great institution, and that it has produced some great men, but I submit it is not up to the level of modern requirements in the matter of university education. We want in Ireland a system of university education up to the level of modern ideas and requirements, and suitable to the needs of the country, and that is a matter not to be left out of consideration in dealing with this question. We want an educational system like that of Germany or Scotland, or that which has lately been started in Wales—a system which will bring home the benefits of university education and training to the doors of the poorest labourer of Ireland. We want no aristocratic university, which caters for a small section of the population, and that the section which is best able to cater for itself. If the university education question was simply concerned with the needs of the wealthier Catholic classes I would never raise my voice in favour of it, nor would any man on these benches; but because we speak for the poor we ask, not for a university for aristocrats and the sons of wealthy men, but for a university where the children of the artisans and labourers of Ireland will sit side by side with the sons of the most wealthy, without any distinction, save that which God made when he created one with more brains than another.

It is charged against us, and is put as a reason why we have not had a university given to us, that we have asked for one governed by Roman Catholic bishops and priests. That is a false charge; we have never asked for such a university. We have asked for a university which shall be in its inception as Catholic as Trinity College is Protestant, and nothing more, and if we get such a university, it will remain Catholic as long as the people remain Celtic and Catholic. That is what will be the result if you make its constitution free. If such a university is set up I promise we will waive our animosity to Trinity College. Such a university would be Irish in sentiment and spirit, and would, I trust and believe and know, open its arms wide and endow its chairs for our ancient literature and language, which is not one of the characteristics of Trinity College; so that men who come to the university would come to the highest centre of learning in Ireland, and not to a foreign institution. Let me just refer to the remarkable words uttered by Father Delaney—one of the most enlightened men who has dealt with this question. What did he say? He said—

> "He had one other observation to make, and it was this: their object was not merely to obtain equality—that was the political aspect of the education question in Ireland—equality between the different classes and religions in Ireland. Their object was to obtain the highest and best modern education, and anyone who had studied the developments of science and its application in recent times could say that the development of a country depended almost entirely, or certainly to a very large extent, on the degree to which people were educated in the best and most modern systems. He hoped, therefore, that they would have a Royal Commission, on which science would be adequately represented, and that, if possible, they should have on it some men representative, not merely of the science of fifty years ago, but of the science of to-day, who would come to Ireland and realise how hopelessly and deplorably backward we were in what was essential if we were to hold our place with the other countries of the world."

That utterance is not uninteresting, coming as it does from a Jesuit priest—a sect which is held up by ignorant people as being against the enlightenment of Ireland. Yet here was this gentleman inviting the most enlightened people in the world to come and say how higher education for Ireland is to be obtained. I agree most heartily with the desire expressed by Dr. Delaney; by all means let us have some of our greatest scientific men to inquire into this matter. Many things will be proved when they come to look into this question, and I can anticipate nothing but good resulting from the highest intellect you have coming to Ireland and making this investigation; but I think there ought also to be on the Commission some adequate representation of those acquainted with Catholic claims, so that their views should be adequately expressed and put before the Commissioners, so that the Commission could say whether their grievances, or alleged grievances, demand a remedy. The secretary ought to be a man intimately connected with the condition of affairs in Ireland, and one who could be trusted to assist the Commissioners, by his knowledge, to arrive at a just decision.

I have only one more word to say, which I address to those on both sides of the House who are irreconcilably opposed to any such university. I believe those gentlemen are honest in their convictions, and I will only say that those convictions are based upon an ignorance of the situation. When this question was debated before, I found a number of hon. Gentlemen protesting on principle that no endowment should be given to sectarian institutions; yet some of those hon. Gentlemen voted for sectarian schools in this country. Is it not extraordinary? What have they done? I have read the statement of Father Delaney, who says what they have done. Are you aware that under the Royal University system, at the very first meeting of the Senate they devised a scheme openly for the purpose of endowing a Jesuit college on St. Stephen's Green, and that of their revenue £4,000 is paid over to the governing body of the college? When you endow a Jesuit college with public money, the teaching of which you cannot control in any way whatever, which from their point of view is absolutely indefensible, the only defence of hon. Gentlemen is, "We will allow this money to be allocated to this Jesuit college so long as the matter is done through a back door"; but if we are asked to endow a sectarian institution, the charter of which could be laid on the Table of this House, they say, "No." What humbug! What monstrous hypocrisy! Was there ever a country like this? You endow a Mohammedan college at Khartoum; you endow sectarian colleges in this country—we have the very wastrels of the street put into the industrial schools of this country—you endow colleges and universities in the North, where the Presbyterian is the religion; you endow every form of education in Ireland on strictly sectarian principles; you endow a Jesuit college on St. Stephen's Green, through a back-door process, but you will not endow in Ireland a great national university which will be free to all. It is only in England that such an attitude could be taken up. I hope the day is not far distant when we may see the scales fall off the eyes of this House, and that for the unhappy people who have been kept out in the dark for centuries the golden gates of learning may be unrolled, and Ireland may take her stand, where once she stood, among the most forward of the learned nations of the earth.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, the provision for universities is totally inadequate, and none can be regarded as equitable which does not secure for the Roman Catholics of Ireland, equally with other members of the community, facilities for university education without violence to their religious feeling'; instead thereof."—(*Mr. Roche.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): The hon. Member for East Mayo addressed a considerable portion of his speech to the discussion of the Commission which is to inquire into what takes place in Ireland in this matter, and objecting very strongly to Trinity College being withdrawn from the purview of that inquiry. I myself should be very glad to see Trinity College come under examination, for I believe if it did it would come out triumphant. The hon. Member also supported his argument by quoting the endowment of the Jesuit college in Dublin. That was effected entirely without the knowledge of Parliament, and I earnestly hope, when the investigation takes place into the whole system of university education in Ireland, that endowment will be withdrawn. I do not intend to devote my time to criticising the future action of the Commission. I will address my remarks to the proposal of the hon. Member opposite embodied in this motion. This motion proposes, "That in the opinion of this House, the provision for universities is totally inadequate, and none can be regarded as equitable which does not secure for the Roman Catholics of Ireland equally with other members of the community facilities for university education without violence to their religious feeling." I thought, when the hon. Member commenced his speech, he would point out how it comes about that the Roman Catholics find themselves handicapped for university Education in Ireland.

MR. DILLON: I told you twice over.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: The hon. Member certainly said they could not learn Irish at Trinity College. I do not believe the hon. Member can speak Irish, and he is not a member of the university.

MR. DILLON: My father was.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: And no doubt was an ornament to the college from which he came. The hon. Member for Waterford was also in Trinity College, and everybody will agree that he is a very excellent specimen. I do not believe anybody will say that the Protestant atmosphere of the college, to which Roman Catholics so much object, had any deleterious effect on either his faith or morals. We object to a Roman Catholic college in Ireland, because it would be dominated by the Roman Catholic Church. That is the view I take and which I shall try to prove, and in order to do so, it is necessary to take the evidence of Roman Catholics themselves upon the matter. What did the Bishop of Down say?

MR. DILLON: What date?

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: 1868. The views on faith and morality held by the Catholics in 1868 are the same as they hold in 1901, and this is what the Bishop said—

> "The managers should use no books in the school but such as would be approved by the heads of their religious denomination. Q. How far will extend the right of judging as to the secular portion of the instruction?—A. The Church has a general right to examine any book, and to see whether or not there is anything in the book contrary to sound faith and morals—any book whatever. Incidentally there may come into any book a proposition which may be very objectionable. There is no book which I conceive the proper authority of the Church would be excluded from examining."

I ask the House to mark how he went on, as this shows the amount of liberty which the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland allows to its members—

> "But a parent may, if he likes, independently of the Church, say, 'I will not be tied down by the Church. I will not be priest-ridden.' He may do that, but if he does it is by the violation of his principles, or by following an erroneous conscience as a Catholic."

So that a Roman Catholic in Ireland has no choice whatever. Either he must follow the education given to him and superintended by the priests of his Church, or, if he tries to obtain education where that authority is not exerted, he does so at the peril of his position as a Catholic. Therefore, if the House wishes to know why Roman Catholics in Ireland have not of late years gone in large numbers to Trinity College, the reason is to be found in that statement of the Bishop of Down. You cannot expect a Roman Catholic who firmly believes in his religion, in the face of that utterance, to send his son to Trinity College, or any other college where the priests are not supreme. Of course, I shall come into that category described by the hon. Member for East Mayo as "intolerant bigots." [Nationalist cheers.] I knew that would evoke a cheer; but my idea of bigotry and that of hon. Gentlemen opposite are entirely different. I do not say that a man who holds very strong views on the religion he professes is a bigot, but I do say that that man is a bigot who tries to force his opinions down the throats of those who object to them. Nobody will be able to show, in the course of this debate, that a Roman Catholic who goes to Trinity College has to confront any attempt to undermine his faith. I appeal to the hon. Member for Waterford, who has been to Trinity College, to tell me whether, during the time he was a member of the college, any effort was made to injure or undermine his faith, or whether, during his residence, anything was done that he saw or heard of which would be offensive to the most tender conscience of a Roman Catholic.

Why do Roman Catholics not go to Trinity College? For one reason and one only—that they are not allowed. In the debate two years ago the Leader of the House said, "What a terrible thing it would be if the Catholics did come in great numbers," and he asked how we should like that. Why, if they came in shoals, we should receive them with open arms. We should be only too glad to see our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen coming to receive their education at the same college as that at which we received ours. We believe that by that means a bridge would be built over the gulf which religious intolerance and bigotry have placed between different portions of the population. For my own part, I repudiate bigotry or intolerance, but I will oppose to the bitter end any attempt to create in Ireland a university which inevitably must be directly guided and governed by the Roman Catholic priesthood. I would equally oppose the creation of a university absolutely governed by the Protestant Church. There are priests in every denomination—and I equally dislike them all. In what way is a Roman Catholic who enters Trinity College at the same time as a Protestant handicapped or interfered with in his progress towards the prizes which the open competition of the university holds up for its scholars? Is it not perfectly true that they are treated absolutely fairly, irrespective of the faith they profess, and that all the prizes and fellowships of the college are open to the competition of both? It cannot be denied that that is so. The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland has in the past made great claims on the Legislature of this country. It began, and rightly, by pleading for toleration. It got it. It then pleaded for equality, and, although the Irish Church had to be disestablished, it got that equality. It now asks for absolute supremacy over the education of the majority of the Irish people. A few years ago, when this question was under discussion, I had a letter from a Roman Catholic gentleman in Ireland hoping I would stick to my guns in the matter, and he said that on the governing body of a Roman Catholic university, with a predominance of laymen, if there were one bishop, that bishop would have more weight than all the rest put together. The position of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ireland is absolute. The House of Commons is asked to create and endow a Roman Catholic university. What do hon. Gentlemen opposite offer in return? Do they promise loyalty? Do they propose to bury the hatchet which they and their friends and the priests have been sharpening all these years? Do they intend to try, as far as they can, to cause the Irish people to forget those dark days, which, thank God! have long passed away? No; they promise nothing, and expect to get everything. The House of Commons, which is essentially a businesslike assembly—except sometimes —will naturally ask itself, if we do grant a Roman Catholic university, guided, influenced, and practically dominated by the priestly authority, What kind of citizens will it turn out? The House has not far to go to see what kind of citizens Roman Catholic education in Ireland turns out. There are about eighty specimens below the gangway opposite. I do not use the word "specimens" in any offensive sense. I do not say "bad specimens," as that would be very uncivil to hon. Gentlemen opposite. I do not say "good specimens," because that might be insulting to the Irish people. I take it that hon. Gentlemen opposite are merely ordinary specimens of the output of Roman Catholic education in Ireland. Can you hold up the Nationalist party in this House as an example of what good citizens of this Empire should be? They themselves openly avow that they hate the British Empire, and that whoever strikes great Britain is their friend. [Nationalist cheers.] They are perfectly frank. But is it likely, if the output of Roman Catholic education increases, it will be for either the well-being of Great Britain or the good of Ireland? I do not think it will.

One cannot deny that the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland have gone outside the natural boundary of the religious domain, and have entered the field of politics. They have pointed out that they cannot sever their views of religion from politics, because politics affect morals. There is one opinion which I will ask the permission of the House to quote. A very great authority. Mr. Gladstone, in speaking of the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, pointed out that there the priests were absolute over the people, the bishops were absolute over both, and the Pope was absolute over all three. This Roman Catholic university, their own priests said, must be planted by themselves or Roman Catholics will not be allowed to go to it; they must have their learning passed through ecclesiastical filters before it reaches their mind; and is that, in the twentieth century, a university which ought to, or can, command the respect of the world at large, or even of Ireland?

Two years ago the First Lord of the Treasury sympathised with the idea of establishing a Roman Catholic university in Ireland. I venture to point out to my right hon. friend and the House that the position since then has materially changed. My right hon. friend may have had in his mind the hope, which is not well founded, that by concession to the Roman Catholic clergy and hierarchy he might secure their loyal support to the Government of the country. What has happened during the last two years? This country has been engaged in a great and bitter war, and what course did the Roman Catholic hierarchy pursue, in sympathy with hon. Gentlemen opposite? Why, all over Ireland the Roman Catholic clergy have held up our enemies to admiration and condemned Great Britain. These are the men whom you propose to place at the head of Irish university education. Last, but not least, they really showed their true colours when this country suffered under the bereavement of the death of our beloved Queen. Who, among all her subjects, alone showed no sorrow, sent no testimony of their sympathy?

The Roman Catholic hierarchy of Ireland. That, in itself, was sufficient, I should say, to open the eyes of my right hon. friend to the men into whose hands he proposes to commit supreme authority for the education of Ireland. Do you think that these men will turn out loyal citizens—these men who side with our enemies, who refused to express sorrow at the death of our Queen? Are they the men into whose hands you think it would be a good thing to confide the educational destinies of Ireland? I say, "No," and when I say, "No" I think I am speaking for the majority of the House of Commons and for the great majority of the Protestants of the Empire. I have spoken somewhat warmly, for I feel very warmly upon this subject, but I think that it would be a supreme and almost a criminal mistake for this or any other Government to ever try to persuade the House of Commons to hand over the education of Ireland to these men, to this Church, to this hierarchy, and thus forge a chain which would be bound for ever round the intellect of Ireland, by giving it over to these clerical fomenters of discord and teachers of treason.

*MR. MORRIS (Galway): I should like, with the indulgence of the House, which I hope will be extended to me on this, the first occasion of my addressing it, not to let this opportunity pass by without giving expression to the views which I hold upon the interesting question which has come before us tonight, and which I hope the House will consider in a fair-minded, tolerant, and sympathetic manner. I am quite certain that time will show that this is a question fraught with the greatest importance, not only for the intellectual development but for the whole social and public and political life of the country to which I belong, and whose interests I have so much at heart, and a portion of which, and that the capital of the most Catholic province in Ireland, I have the honour of representing in this House. And I hope that I am not presumptuous in thinking that there are one or two reasons why my views may not be without value to this House because, owing, to the chances of my life, I have, I think, had special or certainly varied opportunities of forming the views which I hold. Perhaps the House will in this matter excuse my being a little personal in my remarks, but I desire to say that I was educated in England in my school days at a Catholic school, which was presided over and influenced by one of the greatest Englishmen of his day, and one who added to his other great claims of distinction that of having made the most valuable contribution and given the most brilliant advocacy to the very question which we are now discussing, and who was also the founder and first rector of the Catholic University started in Dublin in the middle of the last century. I refer to Cardinal Newman. I lived, therefore, at that school in a Catholic atmosphere. My fellow students were Catholics, and the masters were Catholics, but there was no undue clericalism. They were all laymen, and I had thus the opportunity of being educated under the best and healthiest Catholic auspices. When my school days were over and I returned to my own country, the only option I had, if I wished to go to a university, in the strict sense of the word, was to go to Trinity College. I went there and spent four years of my life at that college, and, as I hope to be able to show from my own experience, I spent four years in one of the most Protestant institutions which I believe it is possible to conceive. I also happen to live in the neighbourhood of one of the Queen's Colleges, and am familiar with its history and working. I only mention these facts in order to show that I have come into contact with the question from various points of view, and am acquainted with the many conflicting interests involved in this question, which is undoubtedly a vexed and difficult one. But there is another reason why I think my opinions should receive the attention of Members, on the Ministerial side more especially. I am the sole Unionist in the House of Commons out of three provinces of Ireland, and I am the only Catholic Unionist in the House from Ireland. Practically speaking, Irish Catholic Unionists are unrepresented in the House of Commons, because, though a large, they are a scattered body, and at no place do they exist in sufficient numbers to return a representative to Parliament; nevertheless they are a large body, and particularly in connection with this question, as they happen to belong to a class who are one and all interested directly in its solution. And I think they have some claim upon the Government, and upon Members on this side of the House, because as in the past they remained loyal, in spite of terrible laws and the loss of their position and property, to the faith of their country, so in recent years they have, in the face of an immense amount of undeserved unpopularity and loss of local influence, remained loyal to the Throne and the Constitution. On their behalf, then, I appeal more especially to this side of the House for a sympathetic consideration of this question. But beyond mentioning the fact that there is such a class in Ireland, and that they are so unrepresented in this House, and yet that they are so deeply interested in the settlement of this question, I do not wish to lay stress on political distinctions, because I know and cordially recognise that the Catholics of Ireland, whether Unionists or Home Rulers, are solidly united in one body in demanding justice in this matter.

If the House will allow me, I will briefly review the university opportunities that at present exist in Ireland, and are available for the possible Catholic student. There is, first of all, of course, Trinity College, Dublin. It is pre-eminently first. And before I say a word about Trinity College, I wish for myself to offer a tribute of warm affection and regard for my old university. I hope I am not an entirely unworthy son of an university where I spent much pleasant time, and the memories of which I recall with sincere gratitude; and I would go further and say that there is no Irishman, no matter what his political opinions or religious views may be, no matter whether he happens to have been to Trinity College or not, who ought ever to mention the name of Dublin University, the mother of so many distinguished and patriotic Irishmen, without the greatest respect and pride. It was the university of Berkeley, Swift, Congreve, Goldsmith, Burke, Flood, Grattan, Plunket, Curran, Moore, and Lever; and I may remind the hon. Member for East Mayo that it was also the college of Wolfe Tone, Emmet, Davis, and Butt. Such are my personal feelings with regard to what is a most distinguished institution, which has in the past done good work in Ireland from its own point of view, and which is now doing good work from its own point of view, and which I hope will continue to do good work from its own point of view, and which is my own Alma Mater. But I would ask whether I am guilty of a want of filial respect if I say that my collegiate mother is a Protestant, for that is all I desire to say with reference to Trinity College, and what also I do not wish to see changed, but I do say that Trinity College is a Protestant institution from top to toe, from the provost at the head of it to the porters at the gate. It is Protestant in its birth, history, traditions, and customs; in its system of education; and it is Protestant this very minute in its composition and administration. It is idle to deny that it is Protestant in its atmosphere and spirit, when it is Protestant in substance and reality, and it is absurd and unfair to ask any Catholic in Ireland to be satisfied with it as a means for higher education. How could it be otherwise with Trinity College? We know what it has been for three centuries. Trinity College has been openly and avowedly a disseminating fountain of Protestant thought, culture, and feeling in Ireland. It has been the actual centre and rallying point of the Protestant ascendency, which ruled Ireland up to a few years ago. It was in past years openly and avowedly connected with proselytism. It was founded and endowed for such purposes, and it should be remembered that Trinity College is a State founded and State endowed institution, and that the State endowment includes a divinity school. For two centuries Roman Catholics were not even admitted to the college, and only in recent times have the positions of emolument been opened to them. It may be said that all that is past, that the tests and disabilities which prevented Catholics from going to Trinity College no longer exist. But, nevertheless, I maintain that the college cannot be considered acceptable or congenial to the Catholics of Ireland. I would ask hon. Members to picture to themselves the converse of such a university as I am describing, and if they do so, I think they will have to admit that although Catholics are no longer excluded by law from Trinity College, it is a Protestant institution, and dangerous, if not positively injurious, to the faith of Catholics. I ask you to look at Trinity College as it exists to-day. This is the college which we are told meets the requirements of the Catholic people of Ireland, who are the great mass of the nation. More than 90 per cent. of the students attending Trinity College are non-Catholics; the provost, all the fellows, and all the professors are Protestants. The provost and many of the professors are in addition Protestant clergymen. I ask hon. Members whether such an institution, if equally Catholic, would be acceptable to Protestants to send their sons to. There is in connection with Trinity College an official chapel. When the bell rings the Protestant students congregate dressed in cap and gown, but what becomes of the Catholic student on that occasion? If he attends at all, under such circumstances, to the duties and observances of his own religion, he has to sneak out of the college into the streets of Dublin to follow his devotions. The chapel in Trinity College is a most conspicuous feature of the social life of the college. Its ceremonial goes on daily before one's eyes and in one's hearing. I speak from experience and observation, and I again ask hon. Members to picture the converse. Then the divinity school of Trinity College is one of the largest, most important, and most influential schools in the university. It is the actual training school of the Church of Ireland, and in connection with it there is, of course, the retinue of professors and lecturers in theology—men, too, who lecture on controversial points as between Catholics and Protestants, and who afterwards lecture Catholic students in subjects of philosophy and morals and modern history. It is one of the richest schools in connection with the college. There are a number of prizes, exhibitions, and sizarships open only to Protestants, because they can only be competed for by students coming from the Protestant preparatory schools in Ireland, and in connection with the chapel and the divinity school there are several social and debating societies, such as the college theological society, the church musical society, choir societies, and university missions. But, leaving aside the actual College chapel and the divinity school, I say that the influences which permeate the whole college and constitute its spirit and atmosphere, with respect to even the smallest detail, are as Protestant as it is possible for them to be. The provost is a distinguished Protestant theologian, actually famous for his writings against Catholics. Books are included in the college courses which are essentially Protestant in their nature; the Catholic student is lectured and examined in philosophy and history by a professor, who that morning may have been conducting services in the chapel, preaching controversial sermons, or, very properly, from his point of view, lecturing in the divinity school on subjects of theological differences between Catholics and Protestants. It is a thoroughly sectarian college. Even students who are not divinity students, but who are members of the Church of Ireland, have to attend services in the chapel, and attend catechetical lectures and examinations. The Dublin university press is, too, the principal Protestant publishing firm in Ireland.

I could go more into detail, but I think I have said enough to show the House, in dealing with the only university in the strict sense of the word that exists in Ireland, that it is carried on actively in connection with, and is steeped in the spirit of a particular form of belief, that it is a most sectarian college, and that it is idle and ridiculous to deny that its atmosphere is Protestant—an atmosphere which always seemed to me like a sort of cold, smokeless incense—when the actual composition and administration of the college are so intensely Protestant. Trinity College, therefore, can never be a college for the Catholics of Ireland. If it does not actually injure or destroy the faith of a Catholic, it certainly subjects it to the greatest danger, and it certainly humiliates all the religious sentiments and susceptibilities of an Irish Catholic. I think it is monstrous to ask an Irish Catholic, who is a member of the religion to which the great mass of the nation belong, when he wants to finish his education to, as it were, leave his country behind him, leave his religion behind him, and all the associations connected with his faith and home and earlier education, and go into such an institution, where he practically finds himself living alone like a pariah; and I ask again, would Protestants send their sons to a college as Catholic, or half as Catholic, as Trinity College is Protestant? But the Catholics of Ireland have no desire to touch Trinity College. We recognise that it meets the requirements of a large section of the Irish people. We know that it was founded for the purpose of teaching the Irish people through the medium of Protestantism, and we are perfectly willing that it should continue to do the good work it has done in the past, but I say it is unfair to ask Catholics to be content with it. Trinity College, however great, however much I admire it in many respects, is part and parcel of the old Protestant ascendency, and when the Catholics of Ireland take into account its history and traditions it is absolutely uncongenial to them and thoroughly out of touch with all their views and feelings. It is an exotic and unnational institution. One of the Fellows of the college himself said that it was not a national institution, and had never pretended to be such. It has, I believe, been called by the other universities "the silent sister," and could there be a stronger piece of evidence of how uncharacteristic it is of the country it is located in? Now, I have endeavoured to survey Trinity College as it exists as a university available for at least open to the Catholic students of Ireland, and I wish now to ask what other opportunities they have in the matter of higher education. To my mind there is no other university. It is said that there is the Royal University; but the Royal University is not a university at all, it is not even a college. It neither educates nor teaches the Irish people. It has simply one of the most perfunctory attributes of a university—that of examining. It is a university without residence, without pupils, without teachers, without class-rooms, without reading together, without debates. I have seen it mentioned as a criticism of all university teaching in these days, even in the oldest colleges in this country, that it is too much a process of cramming. If that can be said of Oxford and Cambridge, with all their intellectual and social life and spirit of culture, how much more is this the fact in the case of a dry examining board, a question and answer machine, a university of results? In my opinion the Royal University cannot in any high and formative sense educate or advance the mind of the people of Ireland. There is nothing which arises out of old traditions, no *genius loci*, none of the advantages of personal stimulus and oral instruction; no interchange of ideas and comradeship between young men coming from different parts of the country, creating enlargement of mind and tolerance; no social or even festive life or athletics. In a word, none of the unstudied education or unwritten lessons which are the most valuable part of university training. I have seen it said that the Houses of Parliament and the atmosphere around them are a sort of university of politics. If an hon. Member of this House never came here but occasionally to vote, if he missed all the valuable oral instruction that can be gained here, say in the debates—the social life of the place—what the hon. Member for Kerry calls "the ins and outs of the smoking room"— all that can be learnt from the manners and customs of the place—could it be said that such a Member was deriving all the advantages which can be gained as a student in this university of politics? The same may be said of the Royal University of Ireland, which is thoroughly unsuited to the social and intellectual needs of the Irish people, is a miserable makeshift, a sham university, and has been condemned by its own governing body.

There is only one other form of higher education in Ireland to which I would refer, and that is the Queen's colleges. The Queen's colleges were founded by Sir Robert Peel, when he tried to force a purely secular education on the people of Ireland; but they are absolute failures in regard to meeting the requirements of the Catholic people of Ireland. The only one which has taken root is now practically a Presbyterian college. Any attempt to force a purely secular education on Ireland will never be acceptable to the Irish people. Secularism is absolutely repulsive in the eyes of the Irish people, including the Protestants, for they are just as keenly opposed to undenominational education as the Catholics. The Irish people will never accept any education from which religion is banished. But it has been said that to found a Catholic university would be retrogressive, that it would be to go back on the principle of not endowing any institution in which religion is taught. The Irish people have never accepted that principle, although it may have been accepted sometimes in this country. The religious conscience of Ireland is absolutely opposed to such a principle. The other day I read a description of that principle by a great educationalist, a distinguished Englishman. I will quote it for the benefit of hon. Members on the opposite side of the House who are such advocates for the principle. He called it "that spavined, vicious-eyed Liberal hobby expressly bred to do duty against the Irish Catholics." Moreover, all existing education in Ireland—whether primary, intermediate, or university—is sectarian. Trinity College, for instance, is. And I would point out that to attempt to secularise Trinity College will be of no earthly use to meet the demands of Irish Catholics. I say that if any such thing is attempted it would ruin Trinity College as an institution for Protestants, and, far from making it a half-way house, would remove it thousands of miles further away from Irish Catholics, for they would much prefer a Protestant atmosphere to an agnostic or atheistic atmosphere in a university.

I have dealt with the only opportunities that exist for university education in Ireland. I have spoken of Trinity College and its Protestant character, of the Royal University, and of the Queen's colleges, and have shown how unsatisfactory for different reasons these all are, and how there is no possibility of their meeting the daily growing needs of the Catholic people of Ireland, who desire a university education. I now wish to answer some of the objections which have been made to establishing a Catholic university in Ireland. One objection I have heard raised is, "It is all very fine to make this demand, but why do not you found a university yourselves? Why do you always come, like beggars, to us?" The reply is that we are too poor, and that it is your fault that we are so poor. The history of Catholic Ireland is the history of the poor. And we have no wealthy men who could dream of founding a fully equipped university. I would ask the House to consider how much the poor Catholics of Ireland have done, and are doing, for the cause of education and religion. They support their own clergy; they have had to build in recent years churches to replace those confiscated from them in penal times; and they have subscribed liberally to innumerable educational institutions. It is simply marvellous to consider how much has been done by the generous and faithful poor of Ireland for religion and education. But not only do they support their own Church and educational institutions; the poor Catholics of Ireland in the past, and indirectly at this moment, support the Protestant Church there, because we all know that their money went to endow the Church of the wealthy Protestant minority, and that, although the Tithe Commutation Act was passed, the burden falls still upon them indirectly through the rent. Not alone are they poor, but it is your fault that they are poor. The other day there was a debate in the House when some hon. Member referred to Irish history. The First Lord of the Treasury in reply afterwards—and there is no gentleman whom, from an Irish point of view, I more admire, or who has shown as a British statesman a more sincere desire to deal with the great problems he became familiar with in Ireland—deprecated in discussing Irish questions references to Irish history. In discussing English questions in this House there is no necessity to refer to history. The questions which come before the House in reference to England are questions that have arisen owing to modern developments and the conditions of modern society; but, unfortunately, the questions we have to bring before the House from Ireland are not modern questions. They are old questions. I wish that they were modern questions dealing with new social and industrial complexities. The questions which we have to ask the House to consider refer to the redress of ancient wrongs in Ireland and the necessity for doing justice to Ireland; unfortunately most of the demands from Ireland are for arrears of justice, and it is absolutely necessary, when bringing them before the House, to look into Irish history. No Irishman looks into Irish history except with a shudder, but he has to do so in order to trace the springs of the wrongs and anomalies which exist in his country in so many cases. And there you will find that the poverty of the Irish people is due to the infamous penal laws which were directed against not only the religion but the property and position and trade of the Irish people. A century ago it was a felony for a Catholic to learn. They were offered either Protestantism or Catholicism and ignorance. They chose the latter, but of course suffered. So the Catholic population lived on in Ireland without colleges, or schools, or religion, not allowed to hold property of any kind, and yet you are now astonished that the Irish people are poor. But now these laws are at an end you have coming before this House the demands and necessities of the immense daily growing Catholic population of Ireland who have just emerged from the suppression of the past, after centuries of persecution, and who ask you to deal justly and fairly with this matter. I consider, for my part, that the penal laws of Ireland may be said still to exist to a certain extent so long as you prevent the Irish Catholics from having university education, and so penalise them from entering the higher walks of professional life. Complaints are made of so many Protestants being appointed in Ireland to various offices, and I often think that this is due to the fact that they are the most highly qualified, because the Catholics have not had the educational advantages which they have had. I agree with the hon. Member for East Mayo that the proposed university should be instituted upon the lines of those of Scotland, where the poorest can go. The fact is that the revolution has taken place in Ireland. Democracy rules in Ireland as elsewhere, and a new generation has arisen to whom you have given political and local power, but to whom you still deny the power of knowledge. I hope the House will now deal with this question once and for all. It is high time that it was settled. For generations the House has seen the Catholics of Ireland come here and by every means in their power endeavour to persuade the House to deal fairly in this matter, and I trust that the present Government, which I look upon as friendly to Ireland, will not allow this occasion to go by without settling a question which is so important to the whole intellectual and social development of the country from which I come.

*MR. JAMES HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside) said this was essentially an educational, and only accidentally a religious, question. He had seen a circular from the Liberation Society in which it was said that there was no reason why Irish Catholics should not frequent Dublin University, inasmuch as English Catholics went to Oxford and Cambridge. As an English Catholic who had been to Oxford he could say that there was no arguing from one to the other. English Catholics had not the numbers for a university of their own, and there was not that historical wall of division between them and their fellow-countrymen which unfortunately existed in Ireland. Unionists had always insisted on the duality of Ireland; and the worst way to create a real unity was to endeavour to force a factitious uniformity between alien elements. He found among his own friends the greatest misconception as to what was really asked for. The Irish hierarchy had laid down distinctly that the university they wanted should be subject to four conditions—(1) the majority of the governing body were to be laymen; (2) no chair of theology was to be endowed out of public funds; (3) the independence of the professors was to be guaranteed by the appointment of outside visitors; and (4) the university was to be open to all comers. When they had a declaration of that kind, how could it be said that an endowment of Roman Catholicism was desired? He believed that, if these conditions were clearly laid down and endorsed by Irish Members opposite, and if they went before the Commission and made it perfectly clear in black and white that that was what they asked for, they would have an irresistible case, not only with this House, but with the whole of the people of England. But he was afraid that hon. Members on the opposite side of the House could not be surprised if they found on the Ministerial side a certain very natural prepossession against anything that emanated from them. He feared that they had not been so mindful of the dignity of Parliament, so careful of the susceptibilities of Englishmen, so zealous for the honour and credit and integrity of the Empire, that now, when they asked for a large concession, they could expect to be welcomed with open arms by those who were concerned for the honour and credit of the Empire.

MR. DILLON: It is a pity we ever emancipated you.

*MR. JAMES HOPE said he hoped, however, that the House would take a higher and broader view of the position. It was not a case of pleasing hon. Members opposite or of satisfying the Irish hierarchy, but it was a case of doing the right and proper thing by the young generation of Ireland.

*MR. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. Member for East Clare and other hon. Members near him to refrain from interrupting.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): On the point of order, Sir, I desire to ask you whéther the hon. Gentleman is in order, instead of addressing himself to the Chair, in addressing us and giving us a lecture.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is perfectly in order. He did address himself to the Chair.

*MR. JAMES HOPE said he was perfectly aware that what he had said would not be acceptable to hon. Members opposite, but every word he had said was true.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Why did your uncle stand by when the King insulted us? Why did not the Duke of Norfolk object?

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member persists in interrupting and obstructing the business of the House I shall have to call attention to his conduct.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: The hon. Gentleman should not insult us.

*MR. JAMES HOPE said that hon. Gentlemen opposite had prided themselves on the sentiments to which he had referred, and how, then, could they be insulting to them? French Canada was a source of strength to the Empire, because there the people had the education that suited them. Ireland was a source of weakness because Irish people had not been able to get the education which they had a right to. For educational and national reasons, and not because he was a Catholic, he trusted that this question would be settled on the lines suggested in the Amendment.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.): Of the two speeches which have just been delivered I infinitely prefer that of the right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh. The hon. Member who has just sat down has presumed to lecture the Irish Nationalist Members on the dignity of Parliament and various topics. We want no lecture from the hon. Member, and, what is more, we will take no lecture from him. If we were to gain our demand by his single vote, I would rather lose it—*non tali auxilio*. The hon. Member's speech was most impertinent, and was characteristic of the class to which he belongs, and which always makes me think that the Catholics of Ireland were very ill-advised when they struggled for emancipation, and emancipated not only themselves, but such specimens of Catholicism as the hon. Gentleman opposite, who probably would have remained a slave to the present day but for the efforts of persons whom he now has the impudence——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must withdraw that expression.

MR. CLANCY: The word has been used frequently.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must withdraw the expression.

Mr. CLANCY: I did not hear what you said, Mr. Speaker, but I, of course, withdraw any expression that you regard as unparliamentary. But the substance of what I say is perfectly plain. The speech of the right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh voiced the sentiments of Portadown—sentiments which I will illustrate with a short story. A Protestant was conversing with an artisan, also a Protestant, on Portadown station, when the former said to the artisan, "You ought not to speak so badly of the Pope, because he is a very good-living man"; and the artisan replied, "Well, all I can say is this—the Pope may be a very good man, but he has a very bad name at Portadown." The right hon. and gallant Member spoke on behalf of a very small and fanatical minority, rather than on behalf of the great bulk of the Protestants even of Ireland. The right hon. and gallant Member pointed to the "manifestations of disloyalty" which had come from the Irish benches, and made that the ground for refusing the demand for further educational facilities for the Catholics of Ireland. That, surely, is an argument against himself, for if the result of the present system of education in Ireland has been to produce those disloyal persons [pointing to the Irish Nationalist Members], it is only reasonable to expect that an extension of university education would lead to an improvement. Apparently the right hon. and gallant Gentleman thinks that, bad as we are now, we would be ten times worse if we were better educated. That may be, but the future will speak for itself. I observed that when the right hon. and gallant Member was speaking of manifestations of disloyalty, many hon. Members around him enjoyed it, and regarded the whole thing as a joke; but the Members who have to deal with the problem of governing the people of Ireland were as glum as death. They did not laugh. They know very well—probably the right hon. and gallant Gentleman himself knows—that the result of the present system has been to produce what are called a "band of rebels." I do not apologise for those "rebels," because everything they have done is justified by British rule. One of the causes of their disloyalty is the fact that they have been refused those educational rights which are never denied to any free people except by a tyrant who uses his power as a tyrant.

The right hon. Gentleman asked, "What have we to give in return for this boon?" Does the right hon. Gentleman mean that justice is to be sold? If our demand is just, why should anything be given in return for the granting of it? If it is unjust, refuse it; but if it is just, why ask any price for it? It should be given freely and voluntarily. The result would be to make discontented people contented. We have two sets of opponents on this question. The right hon. and gallant Member represents a small and fanatical minority of Irish Protestants. All Irish Protestants, I am glad to say, are not opposed to this demand. Trinity College itself has declared, through the mouths of several of its leading spokesmen, in favour of it; and it is supported by the two Members for Trinity College. The principle was also assented to, during the debate on the Home Rule Bill in 1893, by the right hon. and learned Gentleman the present Solicitor General for England. The majority of the Presbyterians are, I think, opposed to it, but the opposition is not unanimous, for one of the principal lawyers in Ireland, and one of the leaders of the Presbyterian body, delivered a lecture in support of the claim in Queen's College, Belfast, with the president of the college in the chair. In a recent speech the Marquess of Londonderry said that to assent to the proposal made on behalf of the Catholics of Ireland would be to do an injustice to the Protestants of Ireland. I deny emphatically that any real injustice would be done. This cry comes badly from the opponents of this demand. The Protestants were planted in Ireland as a garrison, and got the fat of the land; indeed, Trinity College itself was built and endowed on the ruins and out of the revenues of a Catholic college. It is living to-day on the proceeds of the pious founders of 300 years ago, who were all Catholics. Catholics have been allowed to grow up almost brutalised without education; they have been deprived of nearly all means of getting on in the world, and now, after 300 years, when this really miserable demand is made, a representative of the Protestants of Ireland gets up and says it is an injustice to Irish Protestants. I should have thought a gentleman like the right hon. and gallant Member opposite would have defied Portadown, and said, "After 300 years we do owe something to the Catholics, and I for one am willing to pay the debt."

But if the conduct of the Protestants is reprehensible, that of the Presbyterians is absolutely mean. The Presbyterians were persecuted as the Roman Catholics were, and when the Roman Catholics were emancipated the Presbyterians were also at the same time. It was our agitation that obtained for them religious equality and the rights they now possess. They never obtained anything for themselves. Even to-day they are in the habit of allowing the Catholics to work for them, and then, when a beneficial Act is obtained, they come in and reap the fruits. I solemnly declare that for my part I would rather have the enmity of an outspoken institution like Trinity College, objectionable though it is from every point of view to the Catholics of Ireland, than the miserable system of sectarian education which the Presbyterian mind so devotedly admires.

I come now to our British opponents. I understand that a large majority of the Liberal party are opposed to this demand, but we have never yet had an authoritative declaration to that effect from the Front Bench. Unionist Members at the last election pledged themselves in their addresses that the British Parliament was willing to do for Ireland everything that an Irish Parliament would do itself. We challenge those Members to say that an Irish Parliament would not decide this question in the way we desire, and we call upon them to fulfil that pledge. As to Members on this side of the House, I recollect the hon. Member for Carnarvon speaking to this effect—

> "I was willing during the debates on the Home Rule Bill to give you the power of establishing a Catholic university for Ireland if you wished, but I am not willing to vote here for it myself."

The distinction he drew was that in the one case he would not be responsible for a thing he disliked, while in the other case he would. I say that is futile and trifling; it is pure humbug. He would be equally responsible in either case, and he ought to be ashamed to use such an argument.

But let me face frankly the great objection urged against a Catholic university. The right hon. and gallant Member put it brutally, perhaps, when he said that such a university would be dominated by the Catholic clergy. I do not admit that that is so. The argument has been put in this way—that the Catholics of Ireland cannot expect this Protestant nation to contribute to that in which they do not believe, and which they detest. That is a curious illustration of the absolute incapacity of some people to take account of the position of others. Supposing we were arguing for a Catholic university—one with religious tests, and one which must remain Catholic to the end of time because tests were imposed—have we not as much right to ask for that as the Presbyterians of Ulster have to ask for a non-sectarian university? Suppose Catholics regarded with horror the system of education called non-sectarian, and looked upon it as certain in its results to lead to indifference in religious matters, to infidelity, immorality, and bad citizenship, and felt it a grievance to be obliged to contribute towards its propagation and maintenance. Have they not, as taxpayers, as much right as Protestants have to demand what they think to be right? What superiority or infallibility have the Protestants to say they are right and we are wrong? The Nonconformists say that this is a Protestant nation, and that you cannot do a thing which offends the convictions and susceptibilities of the people. That means that all your boasts of religious equality are a sham, and that you still maintain a Protestant ascendency in this realm. You say that all sects are equal before the law, and that all denominations are upon a level, and yet when we make this demand in accordance with our religious tenets we are told, "Oh, the equality does not extend to that. We are still a Protestant nation, and to anything which offends the Protestant convictions and susceptibilities of the nation we will object." If that is the argument, it is an argument against all that has been done during the last fifty years to establish religious equality. If it be true, the Irish Church ought never to have been disestablished, or a single penny voted for the education of Catholics in Ireland. All should have been brought up as strict Protestants. The opponents of this demand should have the courage of their convictions, and say as Cromwell once said—"I do not object to the Catholics of Ireland practising their religion—they may do as they like, but they must not go to mass." That is exactly the same position as when it is said that there is religious equality in this land, but not such equality as will permit Irish Catholic parents to educate their children as their consciences dictate.

Then, I desire to draw attention to the remarks of Lord Londonderry the other day on the question of this Commission. Lord Londonderry as well as Lord Cadogan is a member of the Cabinet, and I should like the Chief Secretary or the First Lord of the Treasury to explain his Lordship's statement at Belfast; it would throw a great light upon the meaning of the appointment of this Commission. Lord Cadogan is in favour of our demand, and has repeatedly said so. We also know that Lord Londonderry is not in favour of our demand, and yet he, too, is in favour of the appointment of this Commission. I would like to know whether it is the Londonderry or the Cadogan element that is going to be uppermost in this Commission. It is all the more necessary to ask this question, because Lord Londonderry himself has laid stress upon the composition of the Commission. He said in a speech delivered in Belfast that what we have to do is to see that the Commission is properly constituted, but what is properly constituted from Lord Londonderry's point of view cannot be so from the point of view of Lord Cadogan. With most of the speech of the hon. Member for W. Galway I entirely agree, and this is one of the few questions upon which I do agree with him. I wish to point out, however, that the hon. Member could not have been elected for W. Galway if he had not declared himself in favour of a Roman Catholic university for Ireland. With one of the pleas put forward by the hon. Member I do not agree. He spoke of the poverty of Ireland as a ground why this demand should be granted, but I object to put the case upon that ground. We do not come to the House as beggars upon this question.

*Mr. MORRIS: I did not put it upon that ground, though I did say that the Catholics of Ireland were incapable of founding a university for themselves on account of their poverty.

Mr. CLANCY: I contend that that is a plea of begging, and I will not make any such plea on behalf of Ireland. We are only asking for what we are entitled to. I will take every opportunity of saying that we do not ask for one single penny of English money, for whatever sum of money is given to us, whether it is one, two, three, or five millions, you will not be giving us one penny which you have not robbed Ireland of in the past. I will never admit that whatever money Ireland gets from the British Treasury is due to the generosity of England, or that it is anything else but a restitution of our stolen or plundered property. I put our demand upon the ground of justice. The Protestants of Ireland are amply endowed; but the Catholics, who are in a great majority in Ireland, are without endowments. As taxpayers we have a right to equal treatment for our educational needs. I should be ashamed to go back to my constituents if for a moment I put this simple demand for justice upon any other ground than that we are entitled as of right to what we are asking for.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University): I desire to intervene in this debate for a very short time, not at all as a member of the Government, but as representing Trinity College, Dublin, in this House. I do so with certain regrets, because I would much rather that the task could have been undertaken by my colleague, whose absence from illness I am sure the House deplores. As has been pointed out, I was myself probably the first member from Ireland representing a Unionist constituency, certainly the first representing Dublin University, who gave my support to propositions for doing something for the higher education of Catholics in Ireland—something that would satisfy the demands of the great majority of the population. I have taken up that attitude now for many years, and I have upon every occasion, I think, that this question has come before the House expressed my views fearlessly, and I hope clearly. Upon the last occasion I had the honour of being returned as the Member of Parliament for Trinity College, notwithstanding a very strong speech to the contrary by the eminent gentleman who did me the honour of opposing me, I felt it my duty to again reiterate those sentiments. I did that because, in the first place, I was convinced of the necessity of conceding these demands in some form or another; and, in the second place, I believed that, in taking up this attitude as a representative of Trinity College, I was acting in accordance with the Liberal traditions of the University of Dublin. I suppose the majority of hon. Members will agree that the highest ideal of a university would be one in which students of all religions, and even those of no religion, might meet upon a common platform. I myself look back with the greatest pride and pleasure to the friendships of gentlemen of a different religion to my own which I made and cemented within the walls of Trinity College, Dublin; and those friendships which are made in a university career are perhaps the best that one makes through the whole period of our professional life. If I were asked and had the power to set up an ideal university for the education of the youth of Ireland, I should prefer to set up one such as we have had to a large extent established, not only in Trinity College, but all over the kingdom, in which all religions and all creeds meet together upon a common platform. I know that a strong argument put forward against the demands of Irish Catholics is that it is a fatal thing to put young men at the very outset of their career in opposite camps, and to bring them up apart and separate the one from the other. That may be true to a large extent; the present system in Ireland has, however, been tried, and Roman Catholics have not taken advantage of it. For my part I value so highly a university training that I would make almost any sacrifice which would enable Roman Catholic young men to receive the benefits of such a training.

It is essential, at any rate for Englishmen, who probably do not know exactly how the question of university education stands in Ireland, to see what efforts have been made in the past to bring about what I have called the ideal state of university training. In the first place, there is Trinity College. Listening to the speech of the hon. Member for East Mayo, and to the very able speech which we all listened to with so much pleasure made by my hon. friend the Member for Galway, one would be led to think that in Trinity College we have some great bigoted Protestant institution. Such is not the case. Trinity College was originally founded for the purpose of propagating the Protestant religion in Ireland. Even since the year 1873, which is now somewhat ancient history, every office, every fellowship, every prize in Trinity College is accessible without any test to any person of any religion whatsoever. The governing body of the University of Dublin is open to persons of all religions and creeds, inasmuch as the board of Trinity College is composed of fellows according to seniority. If the Roman Catholics had gone freely into the college and captured the fellowships, the Catholic fellows would necessarily in time have become members of the governing body. True it is that there is attached to the University of Dublin a divinity school, but I would remind the House that as large a grant as £400,000 has been given to the Catholics by Parliament for the purpose of founding a Catholic divinity school at Maynooth. Trinity College has always been perfectly willing that Roman Catholics should have within the walls of the college exactly the same treatment as Protestants have, by the instruction and services of Roman Catholic priests. Notwithstanding all this, it is perfectly true that we are not educating in a university career the large majority of the Roman Catholics of Ireland. But let it not be supposed that Trinity College is the bigoted Protestant institution that has been described by some hon. Members. If the governing body of Trinity College were asked to-morrow to have exactly the same institutions inside the walls for Catholics as they have for Protestants, they would themselves welcome the overture and do all in their power to meet any such suggestion. Another attempt was made when the Queen's colleges were established, in which no religion was taught. That, however, was not what either Protestants or Catholics in Ireland desired. No sooner were they established than they were denounced as godless colleges, because there was no religious education there at all. The Queen's colleges, with the exception of the one in Belfast, which has practically become a Presbyterian college, have been an utter failure in bringing about what was desired. Another effort was made when the Royal University was established, which was not really a university in any proper sense. There they attempted to bring about a satisfactory state of things for Catholics and Protestants alike by, I think, establishing a board on which there should be almost an equal number of Protestants and Catholics. But the Royal University has been rather less successful than the Queen's colleges, because it does not give the advantages of university education, and certainly in connection with that university the way in which the professors are appointed seems to me to be little less than a scandal. I am not now saying that because I object in the least to the endowment. Of course my speech is directly the contrary of that. You have had all these efforts, and you have had all this money spent with the view of bringing about an ideal university. That has failed. We have had, I am glad to say, within the walls of Trinity College about 10 per cent. of Catholic students who, I venture to say, have no ground of complaint against the institution for trying to interfere with their faith or morals. I think the best testimony to that is the fact that the hon. Member for Galway himself has passed unscathed in that respect through its portals, as his father had done, and, I believe, a distinguished brother of the hon. Member is at present within the walls of Trinity College. But while that is so, we cannot but say that the Catholics of Ireland are still without university education. The question before the House is, Are you going to leave them in that condition for ever simply because you say you will not devote public funds to sectarian purposes? If you do not do that, what are the various alternatives before us to settle the question? With reference to the observations of the hon. Member for East Mayo, I would say that Trinity College, Dublin, is not on its trial in this matter, and is not to be considered at all. If every privilege that is given to Protestants inside Trinity College were given to Catholics, the Roman Catholic Bishops would not be satisfied. On the other hand, they would not be satisfied if an Act were passed saying that no religion of any kind should be taught there You must face the real facts of the case.

I should like to ask hon. Members who object to this scheme of what are they afraid. For my own part, while I should be sorry to say anything that could be thought disrespectful, I should prefer Roman Catholicism highly educated to Roman Catholicism in ignorance, and the only way in which that result can be brought about is by the establishment of some system of higher education. I have attempted to show that Trinity College has done all that could be done by it in furtherance of this system, and that other efforts have also been made. Now, at all events, we are about to do something. For my own part, I hope and believe that the Commission which we are granting will be composed of men of the very highest character in educational matters, and it certainly could be a very grave misfortune if Catholics themselves were not to a very large extent represented on that Commission, as I am perfectly sure they will be. The hon. Member for East Mayo made a rather curious speech in regard to the inclusion or exclusion of the affairs of Trinity College, and I really could not make up my mind whether the hon. Member wished Trinity College to be included or excluded. All I can say is that when the deputation waited on the Lord Lieutenant to urge the appointment of such a Commission Bishop Healy, on behalf of the deputation, specially disavowed any desire to have the affairs of Trinity College included in the reference to the Commission, and the Lord Lieutenant most specifically stated that Trinity College would not be included. If you concede that what you want is not a mixed education inside Trinity College or the exclusion altogether of religious education from Trinity College, you must recognise that the only other alternative, if the affairs of Trinity College are to be included, would be to turn it into a Catholic seminary of some kind, which, I think, no person of sense would suggest. Nothing therefore that could be inquired into in relation to the college could in the slightest degree advance the object which hon. Members opposite and the Bishops of Ireland have in view. I have attempted to put the situation clearly and fairly before the House, and I can only say that, so far as I am concerned, I shall keep the attitude I adopted when I entered the House, and will give any assistance in my power to put within the reach of the great mass of the people of Ireland the benefit of university education.

MR. JOHN GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said he simply desired to express his views in regard to the question of Catholic university education in Ireland as it had been represented to the House and in the form in which it had been put down in the Paper. At first sight there was not much to object to, but when regard was had to the way in which the question had developed, it would be seen that the idea was to have an entirely separate Roman Catholic university in Ireland. As a Member of the Presbyterian religion of Ireland, he wished to give his view in regard to that. The first question which would arise was why the Roman Catholics had not equal facility for university education with the other inhabitants of the country. In Ireland at the present time there was an old university, established for centuries, and whatever might be its past history, everyone knew that it was open to all, no matter what religious belief was professed. If any body desired to have religious education, Trinity College would be delighted to meet them and afford them every facility for obtaining religious instruction. When, under those circumstances, Government were asked to set up a separate Roman Catholic university, it would be wise to consider what underlay the proposals which had been pressed so often, with so much vigour, both within and without this House, for separate denominational education. There was something more than a desire to have a good education. The Queen's Colleges, which had been established on non-sectarian lines, had been described as godless colleges. The people who sent their children to those colleges had a right to look after the religious training of the members of their own church, and they had appointed persons to look after their religious education; but why should that be paid for by the Government? The Presbyterians of Ireland were satisfied to send their children to the Queen's Colleges to be trained by the clergyman appointed in residence to look after them. Why did not the Roman Catholics do the same? Directly those colleges were founded they denounced them as godless colleges, and would have nothing to do with them. The college established in Belfast was availed of by the population of Ulster to a very large extent, but the Roman Catholics, instead of making the college in Cork the success which the Belfast college was, which they could easily have done, kept away from it, and now complained that the Protestants had used the colleges and made them useful for their own people, and argued that as the Presbyterians were adequately provided for, they having taken advantage of the colleges placed in their midst, that was an argument for establishing Roman Catholic colleges for the rest of the population. In 1873 an attempt was made to do something for university education in Ireland, and the Royal University was established, upon the lines of the London University, granting degrees as high as any in the world, but having no religious teaching. That had the element of being free and untrammelled, and open to every person who chose to come and take advantage of its degrees. The student was not subjected to any religious test. He was perfectly free to come and be educated there. Why should there be in Ireland a State-founded and State-endowed university simply for the purpose of satisfying the wishes of one particular religious denomination? In Ireland the people should be, as far as possible, on an equality. The people should be judged or classed, not according to their religion, and provided for upon that basis, but simply as subjects of the country. Trinity College was perfectly free and open, and religious instruction would be provided for Roman Catholics in exactly the same way as for Protestants. An institution was not denominational simply because, while it was open to all, only one particular section took advantage of it and filled its halls. Other people had a perfect right, and were at liberty to go there and take up the same position. He was not concerned to defend Trinity College to any greater extent than to say that it was open and free. The Queen's Colleges were also open and free, but it was idle to say that those colleges were in any sense to be regarded as godless colleges. Every religion had a right to appoint its dean, and did so, with the exception of the Roman Catholics. It was said that Trinity College belonged to the Episcopalians, and was an Episcopalian university, and that therefore the Catholics required a Catholic university. That Roman Catholic university would have to be endowed, provided for, and equipped by the State. Then there would have to be a Presbyterian university. Where was it to end? Was a university to be provided for all the smaller religious denominations which existed? Every denominational institution had been widening its lines and opening its halls to all students, no matter to what denomination they belonged, and to establish such a university as was now asked for would be a distinctly retrograde step. No parallel could be found. It was argued that the Scotch universities were Presbyterian. Yes, but they were not Presbyterian in foundation; they were not State-aided Presbyterian institutions. They were established for the benefit of everybody, and it was perfectly true that in Scotland, where the vast majority of the people were Presbyterians, the Presbyterians flocked to the universities. But that was a very different thing from establishing and endowing a university solely for one class of the community. The way in which the question had been argued was very curious. The hon. Member for Galway had said a great deal about the benefits to be gained by people coming from different parts of the country, interchanging their views, and making friends for themselves for life. The right hon. Gentleman representing Trinity College had referred to the same matter. This was a point which ought not to be lost sight of in dealing with educational questions in Ireland; there were in Ireland quite enough causes of difference, and quite enough matters which created dissension; but why should another be permanently added to the number? Members of one profession worked together, met each other every day, and, although belonging to different religious bodies, had the greatest respect for each other. Why should the sons of these men be sent one, because he belonged to one religious faith, to one university, and another, because he belonged to another religious faith, to another university, to be brought up with feelings of distrust and estrangement existing between them, where all ought to be amity and friendship?

With reference to the proposed Commission, whatever views might be held about Trinity being brought within the scope of the inquiry, if the Commission was to deal with the matter on the broad lines which ought to be laid down, he was unable to see how Trinity College could be excluded. The hon. Member for East Mayo suggested that on the Commission there should be two or three members advocating the one view, two or three supporting the other, and that some poor unfortunate persons who did not care about either should be thrown in to be torn to pieces by the conflicting opinions. He also appeared to imply that it would be impossible to get men of high educational standing, with a knowledge of public affairs, who would be above party and sectarian feelings. He (the speaker) did not believe that that would be the case, and he urged those who would be responsible for selecting the Members of the Commission to endeavour to appoint, not partisans from the one side or the other, but men of acknowledged standing, who would be able when dealing with a question of this kind to put aside mere personal feelings and to treat the subject on broad lines.

As one who knew something of the Protestants of Ireland, he unhesitatingly declared that with the exception of a very few the Protestants were against this proposal. They considered that it would be a step in the wrong direction, that it would accentuate differences which ought to be healed rather than perpetuated, and that, above all, university education in Ireland would suffer by it. In a country with 4,250,000 inhabitants, the vast majority of whom were very poor, it would be a great mistake to have three separate and distinct universities. The degrees of such institutions would cease to carry any weight whatever. Parliament should be careful not to do anything which would encourage the idea of an endowed separate denominational university in Ireland. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Except for Protestants.] The Protestants had not asked for an endowment, and where had the Presbyterians got a separate Presbyterian university? They asked nothing for themselves which they did not freely concede to every other man in the country. Hon. Members opposite could not cite a fact or document or an incident in the history of the country which would bear them out in the suggestion they had made. He hoped the House would reject this proposal.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): As an Ulster Member I wish to place before the House of Commons the claims of my Catholic fellow-countrymen upon this question. I could not be satisfied with giving a silent vote upon this occasion. I had not the advantage of hearing the entire speech of the hon. and learned Member who has just sat down, but such portion as I did hear reminded me of the old fable of the dog in the manger. The hon. Member purported to speak on behalf of the Presbyterians of Ireland, and he argued that they did not want a university. But was that any reason why a university should be withheld from the Catholics of Ireland, who do require it? They did not want a university as Presbyterians, because they have already got all the advantages of education through the medium of the Belfast college, but I am not at all sure that a great section of the Presbyterians have not put forward a claim by which they also will get a university as well as the Catholics. The Presbyterians of Ireland know how to take care of themselves, and my hon. and learned friend evidently had not this historical fact before his mind, that by the Scotch Act of Union the benefit of university education was secured to the Presbyterians of Scotland. They made it a condition when entering into the Treaty of Union, but unfortunately when the Irish Act of Union was passed there was no one to speak on behalf of the Catholics, in order to secure to them the same measure of of justice. I cannot believe that the Presbyterians of Ireland are in any way, as a body, averse to the concession of this boon to the Catholics. On the contrary, I believe that those whose opinions are of the greatest weight are altogether in favour of it. I am coming forward to support what I believe to be the least measure of justice that my Irish fellow-countrymen are entitled to, and I am willing to meet this case and argue it quite apart from the case of the Presbyterians. The hon. Member for Galway, in a most admirable maiden speech, which contained a good deal of the hereditary ability of his father, stated that he came forward as the only Catholic Liberal Unionist in the House. [Cries of "No, no."] I believe he called himself a Catholic Liberal Unionist.

MR. RENTOUL (Down, E.): No, the only Catholic Unionist.

*MR. HEMPHILL: Perhaps he did not call himself a Liberal Unionist, but I thought that all Unionists who were not Tories were proud of being Liberal Unionists, and I understand that the essence of a Liberal Unionist is that he is Liberal in everything except Home Rule. The hon. Member for Galway says that he is the only representative of Catholic Unionism in Ireland. I may say that I am the only representative of what may be called Protestant Liberalism in Ireland. All my friends on both sides are possibly far less Liberal than me, but I happen to be unique in this, that I am the only Protestant Liberal sent from Ireland to plead the cause of Liberal Protestants in this great assembly. I protest against the hon. and learned Member who has just sat down purporting to speak on behalf of the Liberal Protestants of Ireland.

It is quite fair that he should represent Presbyterians, but he has no authority to say what the feelings of Liberal Protestants in Ireland are with regard to this question. I am a medalist of Trinity College, and I have spent some of the happiest days of my life there, and I join with my youthful friend the Member for Galway in expressing admiration for Trinity College as a great Protestant institution, but only as a Protestant institution. Trinity College was founded to propagate Protestantism in Ireland. It was founded by Queen Elizabeth three centuries ago in order to stamp out and extinguish the Roman Catholic religion, and for nearly three centuries it fulfilled that mission, and it was not until the year 1873 that a single emolument or a single fellowship or scholarship was thrown open to the Catholics. It has been suggested that Catholics, by passing fellowship and scholarship examinations, might partake of the benefits of the institution, but to do this they must un-Catholicise themselves. When I was there there were some eight per cent. of the entire pupils members of the Catholic religion, and I know well that there was a feeling more or less of inequality and humiliation amongst them. Men of the ablest intellects and with the greatest industry saw their Protestant brethren come in for prizes from which they were excluded. It is admitted that though nominally Trinity College is open to Catholics, it is really a Protestant institution. I am not going to trouble the House with many quotations, because I know there are many hon. Members who wish to speak upon this subject. In the year 1891 I was present at the opening meeting of the Historical Society in the hall of Trinity College, where a very distinguished audience assembled, and upon that occasion a very eminent man of great literary qualification, who had been himself a fellow of the college, and who is now a county court judge—I allude to Judge Webb—used these words—

> "Their University (said the judge) was founded by Protestants, for Protestants, and in the Protestant interest. A Protestant spirit had from the first animated every member of the body corporate. At the present moment, with all its toleration, all its liberality, all its comprehensiveness, and all its scrupulous honour, the *genius loci*, the guardian spirit of the place, was Protestant. And as a Protestant he for one said, and he said it boldly, Protestant might it ever more remain."

That was his opinion of the Protestantism at Trinity College. Upon the same occasion Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, who was then, and happily still is now, one of the greatest ornaments of the Irish Bench, said—

> "They in that University claimed to be proud of their college and content with their University. Their work challenged competition; it therefore should be free from disturbance. But if it was to be made safe from disturbance, it should rest on the foundation of justice, and that could only be laid by the States providing for others what Queen Elizabeth and King James and their own conscientious discharge of their duty for three hundred years had provided for that place."

That is from a Protestant Unionist—a man of the greatest eminence among living Irishmen. Now that is all they ask. We, the Presbyterians, are satisfied with the *status quo* as regards Trinity College, but three-quarters of the Irish people are Roman Catholic, and they demand to have what they are fairly entitled to—a university in which their youth may matriculate and graduate without any scruple or fear of having their faith shaken or disturbed. One of the great fallacies is that Dublin College is, as at present constituted, sufficient to satisfy the wants of the Irish people. Reference has again been made to Scotland. Scotland has a population even now of much less than Ireland, low as the population of the latter is at this moment, and yet Scotland has the Universities of Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. All these universities are largely endowed. I do not know whether they are at the present moment endowed by original grants from the Crown, like the case of Trinity College, but undoubtedly the fact is that each has considerable endowments. I quote now from the title "University" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which we know is a work of singular authority—

> "The sums voted annually or charged on the Consolidated Fund for the ten years ending 30th March, 1883, were for Aberdeen, £65,821; for Edinburgh, £85,906; for Glasgow, £66,182; and St. Andrews, £38,111. In addition to these sums Edinburgh had received £80,000 and Glasgow £20,000 in the form of grants in aid."

Why should Ireland be in a worse position than Scotland for the sons of farmers and small shopkeepers? If there was nothing else to render the demand of the Irish people unanswerable it is that the people were too poor at present to compete with those who are in the habit of sending their sons to Trinity College. I think that is what the hon. Member for Galway meant. In that I would be inclined to agree with him. I want that a young Irishman who may be in a very humble position, who may not be endowed with the gifts of fortune, should have the portals of a university thrown open to him, where he could enter without fear and without scruple. I know that Trinity College can now admit other colleges to be affiliated with it, but I, as an Irishman, having had considerable experience of various shades of life and society in that country, am satisfied that the true and best solution of this question is to start a university, *de novo*, constituted on the lines to which attention has been called by the hon. Member for the Brightside Division, who marred an interesting and liberal speech by an unnecessary attack on my friends below the gangway (the Nationalist Members). Perhaps if he had been Irish, and if he had been brought up with the antecedents of some of my friends below the gangway, if he had been brought up in the traditions of a persecuted race, he would have had a more sympathetic feeling for the position in which they are placed.

MR. JAMES HOPE: What I said was that hon. Members opposite were spoiling a good case.

*MR. HEMPHILL: I am sure that no one now regrets the observations into which he was betrayed more than the hon. Member himself. If I wanted an argument in favour of my position I would refer to the fact that amongst the Gentlemen occupying the benches below the gangway are some of the keenest intellects in this House, and some of the most eloquent speakers in this House. Everyone who has been watching the proceedings of the House since the opening of the present Parliament must admit that I am right in what I am saying, and yet very few of them have had the opportunity of graduating in a university. Why should such men be placed under circumstances that deprive them of the advantage of university education? We all go on the postulate that there is great value and importance to be attached to university degrees. Why exclude any class of clever, intelligent Irishmen from attaining that position? Why prevent the priesthood of Ireland from being armed with a university degree? I would like to appeal to the sense of justice, to the love of fair play—which, however, in some instances it may be overlaid with political prejudice or religious bigotry, is, I believe, the bedrock of the English nature—not to withhold this advantage from three or four millions of the Irish people. It will cost very little. The conditions read out by the hon. Member show that it is not a Roman Catholic university that is sought but a university into which Roman Catholics may enter, a university not presided over by a man who has brought his great talent and genius to bear in the polemical controversy between the Church of Rome and the Church of Ireland, to the disparagement of the former.

*MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, E.): In the course of the debates which have taken place on this question in previous sessions we have not had much enlightenment as to the real character of the organisation of the university proposed to be set up, for both on this side of the House and on the other side the supporters of this project have carefully abstained from departing from the platform of vague generalities, and from defining in clear and precise language what are the limitations by which this new university is to be established and maintained as an undenominational institution, and at the same time to be impregnated with the Roman Catholic atmosphere. But though we have only got so far as to understand that Roman Catholic atmosphere is an essential, if not the most essential, feature of this university, and though we have not yet been informed by what machinery this Catholic atmosphere is to be generated, the debates which have taken place have not been altogether without some real value, for the House is now in possession of the general facts bearing on the question at large, which cannot be overlooked in dealing with the nebulous proposal placed before Parliament. We in the first place know that in England Roman Catholics go to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge with the fullest sanction of the spiritual authority of their Church; and we know that neither the organisation, nor the Government, nor the curriculum of these Universities differs in any distinctive feature from the University of Dublin. We know, moreover, that in foreign countries Roman Catholic students go to universities which are as little under the control of the clergy of the Church of Rome as the Queen's colleges in Ireland; and that in no foreign country does the State provide specially for the university education of Roman Catholics. We further know that in Roman Catholic countries, such as Spain and Bavaria, institutions founded and endowed by the Roman Catholic Church have now been secularised. It is plain from all this that this proposal is one that cannot be substantiated by any appeal to the condition of affairs in foreign countries, and that the Roman Catholic Church and bishops in Ireland are now endeavouring to obtain from this Parliament what they have not been able to obtain from any legislative authority or assembly in Europe. There is another fact which we cannot overlook, and that is that members of the Roman Catholic Church have been in the habit of taking advantage of the facilities for university education that are afforded in Ireland; and it has never even been suggested in this House, in any debate, that any one of these students have been seduced from the faith of their Church.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I knew one.

*MR. MACARTNEY: I will give the hon. and gallant Member an opportunity afterwards of substantiating his case; but I say that there has been no suggestion that any Roman Catholic student has been seduced from the faith of his Church—[AN HON. MEMBER on the Irish Benches: There have been several.]—or has suffered the slightest inconvenience from the atmosphere of Trinity College. The hon. Member for Galway spoke of Trinity College being the symbol of Protestant ascendency, but what has it done for his distinguished father? It has promoted him to the highest offices, and that distinguished peer felt so much the benefit of the education he himself had received at Trinity College that he sent there not only the hon. Member, but the hon. Member's younger brother.

*MR. MORRIS: I said that there was no alternative, if a Catholic student wanted to follow a university career in Ireland.

*MR. MACARTNEY: My argument is that there was no danger to the faith of either his father, himself, or his brother. That is a material fact which this House cannot overlook, and I submit that the House must come to the conclusion that if it were not for some special and peculiar pressure exercised by the bishops in Ireland, the laity would take larger advantage of the facilities that are offered by Trinity College, just as the laity do in Italy, Germany, Spain, Bavaria, and other Roman Catholic countries. These being the facts, let us see how far we have got in formulating any definite proposals for this scheme. The Leader of the House, the First Lord of the Treasury, said in the month of February, 1898, that

> "the Roman Catholic bishops would be content that any new educational institution in Ireland should be placed under the same limitations—no less and no more—that now exist in the universities of England and Scotland."

Well, if it were desirable to multiply universities in Ireland—a policy which is extremely doubtful, having regard to the population of the country—there would, in my opinion, be no great objection to a university which was founded and organised upon that general proposition. But my right hon. friend went on to point out very clearly in the rest of his speech that that was a mere phrase, that it had no real meaning, and that it did not touch the essence of the policy of which he himself was a supporter. And he went on to say that—

> "of course it is the essence of the case that the college or university should be founded upon such lines as would make it Roman Catholic in the same sense that Trinity College is Protestant; and that you must do that or you will fail in your policy."

Now here there is a cleavage of the most profound character—a cleavage between the system of the English universities and Trinity College and this new university proposed to be set up—a cleavage which separates them entirely and distinctly. The atmosphere of the English universities is not the product of legislation; but you have at once a forewarning from my right hon. friend that by legislation you are going to impress upon this new university an atmosphere, an organisation which is something absolutely and entirely different from anything which exists in any English university, or in the university of Dublin. Well, it is plain that this must be carried out with some limitations. What these limitations are the House is absolutely ignorant. My right hon. friend has never told us what he proposed to do in regard to them. These limitations are still shrouded in a mass of vague generalities, and it is not to my right hon. friend, but to the Front Bench opposite, that the House is indebted for coming more closely in touch with the question. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs in the same debate laid down five different conditions which were essential to any scheme to which he would give support in the future. These were: First, that there was to be no test for any chair except that of theology; second, no test for any student; third, no student was to be shut out from any competition on account of his religion; fourth, there was to be no State endowment of the theological faculty; and fifth, the most important of all, that the governing body was to be nominated by this House, and afterwards replenished by the Crown.

MR. DILLON: No, no.

*MR. MACARTNEY: These are the conditions laid down by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs. What we have now to consider is how they approach the ideal of Catholic education in Ireland. That matter has been pronounced upon by one of the bishops of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in a clear and unmistakeable note. The Bishop of Limerick said, in regard to the conditions formulated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs—

> "It must be evident to the least informed person that an institution constituted under these five conditions cannot be regarded as a Catholic university in the true sense of the word. . . . In a Catholic university the authority of the Pope would be supreme, and reach directly and indirectly every part of its organisation and pervade and inform its operation. He would grant its charter and sanction its degrees. All its intellectual life would be carried on under ecclesiastical supervision and control."

Now, that is a perfectly clear and frank definition of what the atmosphere of a Roman Catholic university should be.

MR. DILLON: The right hon. Gentleman is making a mistake. The reverend bishop went on to say that he would accept such a university as was proposed by the right hon. the Member for Montrose Burghs.

*MR. MACARTNEY: If any hon. Gentleman goes to the Library and looks up the *Nineteenth Century* for January, 1899, he can satisfy himself whether I am not actually quoting the words of the Bishop of Limerick. This is a perfectly frank exposition of what ought to be the atmosphere of a Roman Catholic university, and which cannot be created under the conditions postulated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs. Here we have, on the one side, the ideal of the Catholic bishops, and on the other side the makeshift presented by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs. I ask the House, Does anyone suppose that the Catholic bishops of Ireland are going to withdraw from their ideal, or that they would rest for a moment until the new university would be so pervaded and so leavened in its constitution that the whole of the intellectual life of the university would in the future be under ecclesiastical control and authority? Anyone who has watched the Roman Catholic bishops in Ireland will know that that is the inevitable result of the policy of my right hon. friend, however he may have intended otherwise. I ask how does this policy stand now? Is it a policy of developing in Ireland a university as we know it in this country, or as carried on on the Continent? Nothing of the sort; on the contrary, it is diametrically the opposite. It is a policy which proposes to create an atmosphere, and when it has created that atmosphere to endow such an educational system as this atmosphere will not smother. As it has been very appropriately named, it is a policy of social expediency, because it undoubtedly prefers the bye-ways of political convenience to the ethics of education. This policy aims at destroying and limiting all the real elements of university life, until they are lowered to the level demanded by the Roman Catholic bishops of Ireland. The right hon. Member for Montrose has gone as far as he could to try and meet the demand of his supporters below the gangway. The right hon. Gentleman said his policy was justified, because it was accepted by three late Chief Secretaries for Ireland, a most dangerous triumvirate. There are no persons whom the House ought to be more chary of following in a question of this sort. I will accept, for the purposes of argument, that the First Lord of the Treasury may be a most bigoted Protestant; but, if so, he is the last person to be entrusted with this problem, because fanatics of this description have a dangerous tendency to go from one extreme to the other. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose said he was opposed to clericalism, but in Irish matters he invariably capitulates to its forces, and, therefore, I hope the House will not accept the arguments of these three gentlemen, though they be ex-Chief Secretaries. It has been argued that there is a difference between a Roman Catholic university and a university for Roman Catholics. There is a difference, but it is only a difference of phraseology; in either case it is evident, from the statement of the Bishop of Limerick, that there must be what the Bishop calls ample security that the teaching will not be contrary to the principles of the institution. We have been told that the Roman Catholic bishops of Ireland have accepted four out of five conditions laid down by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose, and that we may quite accept this as a justification for this policy, but I do not admit that at all. Two of those conditions are absolutely immaterial. The faculty of theology we know is to be in this university. The Bishop of Limerick has told us that it is to be the principal factor in creating a Roman Catholic atmosphere. Nothing appears to me to be more ridiculous than the affectation of unsectarianism which this proviso covers. This university must of necessity be under the control of the dominant theological faculty, and, just in order to enable the supporters of this policy to say the Government have not endowed the Roman Catholic Church, they have omitted to endow the faculty which is to control the study and teaching of the university. We are told also that the Roman Catholic bishops have consented to a majority of laymen, who must of necessity be Roman Catholics, being on the governing body. Under these circumstances, it is a matter which is absolutely immaterial whether the governing body is to be lay or clerical. A whisper from the Bishop of Limerick would govern all the Roman Catholic laity in Ireland——[Cries of "Withdraw!" from the Irish Benches.]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! If the hon. Gentleman had said anything which required to be withdrawn, I should have called upon him to withdraw it.

*MR. MACARTNEY: The Bishop of Limerick would govern all the Roman Catholic laity of Ireland when anything occurred to affect the faith and morals of the Church. I say that these provisions which are put forward as security for undenominationalism in this university are absolutely unsubstantial. The Roman Catholic bishops know that they are unreal and empty, and therefore have no hesitation in accepting the makeshift that is put forward by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose.

What is to be the result of this policy? At the age when university education begins for every Irishman you are going to divide my countrymen into two or three separate universities. The Roman Catholics are to go to this new university; the Presbyterians are to be taken by the neck and flung into the university at Belfast, and the Episcopalians are to go to Dublin. Just at the age when one is most likely to form those friendships and those acquaintances which do so much to soften the bitterness of political or religious feelings in after life you are going to take away every chance of this being done, and are going to perpetuate in Ireland in connection with higher education that unfortunate division which has been countenanced already in primary education. Yet my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury and the supporters of this policy affect to believe that this is going to benefit Ireland. The very class in Ireland upon whom the future of the country depends most is to be separated forcibly if this proposal passes, and is to be driven into three camps at a time when the students are most open to form those friendships which, as I have said, do so much to soften the bitterness of political and religious differences of after life. I can only say I look upon this policy of separation with absolute horror, and I say to treat the education of Ireland as a question of social expediency is unworthy of this House. The hon. Member for Stowmarket will probably say this is a question of ancient prejudice. He presented himself to the House last year as the product of Scotch porridge and the national covenant, and he implored us all to divest ourselves of ancient prejudices, but he did not convince me. He, like Jacob, is emphatically a smooth man. This scheme has been presented to the House with many plausible representations, but none more plausible than that of the Solicitor General, who speaks with great authority on this matter. The Solicitor General said, "Let them start with what the Catholics offered to accept, namely, what the Protestants have got." What have the Protestants got in Ireland ?

Colonel NOLAN : What have the Catholics got ?

*Mr. MACARTNEY : Trinity College, Dublin, which is the principal university, was open to students of every religion, and its fellowships and governing body were open to persons of every religion. The governing body is not under the control of the bishops of the Irish Church or the Presbyterian Assembly, and it is quite possible to conceive that the Professor of Divinity at Trinity College, Dublin, might in his lectures teach theology repugnant to the prevailing opinions of the bishops of the Irish Church and of the General Assembly.

Sir EDWARD CARSON : That is not the case. The test applied.

*Mr. MACARTNEY : But the Professor of Divinity might survive the test, and having changed his opinions deliver any lecture he chose. I adhere to my opinion. The Professor of Divinity might deliver lectures which were repugnant to the bishops of the Irish Church, but they would not have the slightest control over him. There is now a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction in certain sections of the Irish Church with regard to the teaching given by the professor at Trinity College. Is that the kind of university governing body which the Roman Catholic bishops are prepared to accept ? This is one of the plausible forms in which this question is presented to the House, a form which when tested by examination fails entirely. There is no foundation for the argument of my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury, that because the primary education of Ireland is denominational so far as three-fourths of the country is concerned, the House ought to agree to a denominational university. Whether the schools are Protestant, Presbyterian, or Roman Catholic, the general teaching is undenominational, and I regret most strongly that the principle of unmixed schools has taken such a hold on the primary education of the country, and I cannot admit that having gone so far in the wrong direction in regard to primary education is any ground for applying to the higher education of the country a system which, in my opinion, is absolutely wrong. The proposal of the hon. Gentleman has the support of only one class in Ireland, and I fail to find that in that class there is any large majority which goes in for higher education. This is not a question merely of Trinity College ; it is a question affecting the whole of the higher education of Ireland. All the graduates of the Royal University of Ireland are unanimously against this policy. On the 25th of June, 1900, there was a meeting of the graduates at which the following resolution was passed—

> "We reaffirm our conviction that the establishment of State-endowed universities under sectarian control is repugnant not only to the fixed principles of modern educational policy, but also to the teaching of universal ex-

> perience, and, being detrimental to the best interests of higher education, cannot be made the basis of a satisfactory settlement of the Irish university question.”

That is the voice of educated Ireland, and the House may listen to it or it may not, but it is as much entitled to a sympathetic hearing in this House as the councils of social expediency. If you do not listen to the voice of educated Ireland, how are you to be certain that this policy will succeed? Are you certain that the policy of my right hon. friend will settle all these difficulties? I have here the words of Dr. Alexander Dempsey, who wrote this letter to the *Freeman's Journal* in March last—

> “Those who expect the Catholics of Belfast and the north of Ireland generally to be satisfied with a college in Dublin to supply all their requirements for university education know little of the feeling of the people. The Catholics of this enterprising progressive city will not send their sons to Dublin where they have no friends or business relatives of any kind.”

And he went on to postulate the demands of the Roman Catholics for the establishment of Roman Catholic university colleges in convenient centres throughout the country. The policy of social expediency is a long lane, the end of which no man can see, and we may rest assured if we once endow a denominational college in Dublin we shall have to go on endowing denominational colleges all over Ireland. As to the proposal to appoint a Royal Commission, no one will object to a Royal Commission investigating this subject in the fullest possible manner, but I cannot understand why Trinity or Maynooth College should be excluded from the purview of the Commission. If such exceptions are allowed, it can only end in the demolition of the scaffold upon which this policy has been erected. In the formation of this Commission I trust my right hon. friend will exclude from it everybody connected with education in Ireland. That is perfectly fair to all sides, but if my right hon. friend supposes he is going to obtain from the Commission a report upon which he can act, he is a much more sanguine man than my experience of Irish affairs would lead me to believe. It may be that the Commission is intended as only a stepping-stone, or an excuse, for the Government to carry out their policy. If that be so, I warn the Leader of the House that he cannot expect that its recommendations will be received with anything but the most suspicious scrutiny. I cannot imagine why a Commission should be appointed at all, unless it is to inform the Lord Lieutenant, who seems to be one of the most uninformed persons in Ireland on education. It would have been much better for the Lord Lieutenant and his party if he had left the question alone. There have been useful Lords Lieutenants before him, who have been quite as successful, and who have failed in their attempt to deal with this problem. If ever this policy is carried out, the universities cannot but be deeply impregnated with a Roman Catholic atmosphere.

*MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): The right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down has made a most interesting speech, one point of which it is very important to consider, which was that in no foreign country could we find university education so endowed. That was a curious statement, and shows that the right hon. Gentleman could not have regarded the university education system of the British colonies. I approach this question with all the greater feeling because, unlike the majority of my fellow Nationalists, I have had the advantage of a varied university education, having attended the universities at London, Bonn, and Oxford; and it is exactly because I have had this advantage that I can feel what it is for my fellow-countrymen to be deprived of the advantage of education in their own country. In the British colonies we find that the position of the Catholics is recognised, and that there is what we call State endowment for universities for them. Last year, three weeks after the debate which took place on this question, a Parliamentary Paper was published showing the way in which university education was carried out in the British colonies, and within the last few days two volumes of Reports have been published by the Board of Education which add to the strength of my argument on this point. Let me quote from the introduction of Mr. Sadler—

> “The chief characteristic of education throughout the British colonies is the freedom with which it has been allowed to adjust itself to the different needs experienced by different parts of the Empire. There has been no centralised control over educational policy, though literary and other traditions have naturally had a strong influence on the scope and methods of instruction. The educational systems, as described in these volumes, are marked by the utmost variety of legislative enactment.”

That is introductory to the whole of the volumes. Now let me come down to specific instances, and first — New South Wales. It will be found on page 2 of the Parliamentary Paper, page 239, Vol. 5, Education Report.

> "In 1854, an Act of Legislature of New South Wales was passed to provide for the establishment and endowment of colleges within the University of Sydney. The preamble of the Act is as follows: 'Whereas it is expedient to encourage and assist the establishment within the University of Sydney (of colleges), in which systematic religious instruction and domestic supervision with efficient assistance in preparing for the university, teachers and examiners shall be provided for the students of the university, be it therefore enacted, etc.' This Act provides, under certain conditions, for a grant from the Government of not less than £10,000 nor more than £20,000 for building purposes, in each case provided that an equal amount shall be raised by private subscriptions; and also for a grant of £500 per annum in perpetuity for the payment of the principal of each college."

The point I wish to come to is that, under that Act, the four Churches or religious denominations are the United Church of England and Ireland, the Church of Rome, the Church of Scotland, and the religious society denominated Wesleyan Methodists. I speak from personal experience. I visited this university, and have seen the particular college erected for the Catholics, and the Catholics of New South Wales are satisfied with the provsiion made.

Now I turn to the case of Canada (page 13, Parliamentary Paper; page 211, vol. 4, Education Report)—

> "The Laval University was founded in 1852 (two years previous to the founding of the Catholic University in Dublin by Cardinal, then Dr., Newman) by the Seminary of Quebec at the request of the Bishops of Lower Canada. The aim was to throw open to the French Catholic population an institute of higher education capable of equalling in importance those frequented by persons of other languages and religion. The then Governor of Canada, Lord Elgin, and his ministers wrote: 'We have no hesitation in acknowledging the justice and propriety of securing to the numerous and important body of Catholics in Canada the benefit of a University of which they have been until now deprived.'"

Could anything more exactly fit the case of Ireland? This happened fifty years ago, but the Catholics of Ireland are still in the position then occupied by the Catholics of Canada. And with reference to the branch of the university established at Montreal, I find (page 18 of the Paper, page 214 of the Report) that there is a Government grant of 20,000 dollars distributed amongst the faculties of law and medicine, general administration, and the polytechnic and veterinary schools. This is in the case of a university solely for Roman Catholics. I come now to the third case—that of Malta—an important case, because it resembles Ireland in that by far the greater proportion of its population is Catholic. According to the Report—

> "It appears that 99 per cent. of the people of these island are Roman Catholics, and that the instruction imparted in the University and in all Government Educational Institutions in this Colony is based on Roman Catholic principles."

I further find that for the year 1899 the expenditure provided for in the Annual Estimates for the university—attended solely by Catholics—was over £4,000. Here, then, are three colonies in which the university education is carried out in a way which is entirely agreeable to the religious opinions of the Catholics. Two of those colonies are self-governing, and the other is a Crown Colony. You say you have undertaken to govern Ireland better than she would do it herself. If that is so, you have a double responsibility cast upon you. In your self-governing colonies the just claims of Catholics are recognised; in Ireland no provision is made for such recognition, and you pursue a totally different policy from that adopted in the colonies. It has been said that the Irish priesthood cannot compare with the clergy in other countries. In reference to this matter I cannot help quoting an article which appears in the current issue of the *Edinburgh Review*, dealing very largely with this particular question of Catholic university education, as it affects the priesthood of Ireland.

> "It is remarkable," says the writer, "that a State like Prussia, which is mainly Protestant, not only supports Catholic theological faculties in mixed universities, such as Bonn and Breslau, but also subsidises the Academy at Münster and the Lyceum at Braunsberg, which are practically entirely devoted to training candidates for the Catholic priesthood."

The writer further goes on to say—

> "It is remarkable that at Bonn and Tübingen there is a Protestant as well as a Catholic theological faculty working side by side apparently without hostility or friction. This university training may account for the fact that the Catholic clergy in Germany have amply shared in the general intellectual activity of their country during the quarter of a century."

In the debate last year special reference was made to the reports from foreign countries with regard to university education, showing that the Catholics in those countries are satisfied with the facilities afforded to them. It therefore is not necessary for me to go into that point, but I should like to point out that Catholics abroad have everything they want in the way of university education. It is admitted that they are successful. We are always told that the Catholics of Germany have taken a high intellectual position, and we agree. Is it not a curious fact that you will not look into the case, and see that it is exactly because you do not give the Catholics of Ireland the fullest educational privileges that you are able to bring forward charges of a certain lack of culture—charges which are very difficult to refute, because the position is due to a lack of educational facilities? Sir Francis Bacon wrote in his letter to Lord Burghley, "I have taken all knowledge to be my province." If one man had taken all knowledge to be his province, surely a university should take all knowledge to be its province, and it is precisely because Dublin University has not done so that we come before you to-night and claim that you must enlarge the university facilities in Ireland. We have been told to-night that there is no reason to inquire into the case of Trinity College, but I consider that there is every reason for so doing. Remember, we on this side have no responsibility whatever for this Commission; but I would point out that this is not a question of merely founding a Catholic university, or a difficulty of which there is no other possible solution. Such is far from being the case. The Archbishop of Dublin, in a letter to the *Dublin Daily Express*, on November 16th, 1900, repeating the declaration of the Irish Hierarchy on this subject in 1871, points out that there are three possible solutions of the difficulty. He says—

> "I have not concealed my personal preference for the settlement of our University question on the basis (1) of one National university for Ireland, a university, of course so constructed as to provide the maximum of possible freedom for all its colleges. Failing that, a settlement on the basis (2) of the establishment of a second college in the University of Dublin has always seemed to me a good solution of the problem."

And yet the Catholics of Ireland are charged with being veiled in their demands!

> "Both these lines of settlement have over and over again been considered at meetings of our Episcopal body, with the result that both have been regarded as satisfactory. But the preference undoubtedly has always been given to (3) that form of settlement which was originally claimed in Cardinal Cullen's time, that is, the establishment of a separate University for Catholics."

There are, therefore, three possible solutions of the question admitted by the Irish hierarchy, the second of which contemplates the establishment of a second college in Dublin University. If, however, Trinity College is excluded from this inquiry, how will it be possible to come to a satisfactory conclusion upon that proposal?

There are many other points to which I should like to refer, but, as several other Members desire to speak, I will mention only one. There is an educational movement going on in Ireland which is not thoroughly appreciated in this country, and one of which Trinity College—the only existing university in Ireland, the Royal University is a sham—has taken no notice. I refer to the revival of our national language. How can a university claim to be in any sense a national university which ceases to regard the movements of the people? How could Oxford University have ever claimed to be a national university if it had not been thoroughly representative of the people and the great movements of the time? The great Tractarian Movement in the middle of the century is a case in point. But in regard to Dublin University we find nothing of the sort. A university which takes no interest in, or, as an hon. Member tells me, attacks a movement of such educational value as the Gaelic revival, cannot possibly be regarded as a national university. I would conclude by reminding the House that in the colonies this question has been treated as one of equity. Come nearer home, and look upon this claim of Irish Catholics as one which is at least deserving of as full and careful consideration as in any of your colonies, because we are older than any of them.

*MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire): The hon. Member who has just spoken has made a speech showing how the mind of young Ireland is moving on this question. Earlier in the debate we had another interesting maiden speech. The hon. Member for Galway, who made a brilliant first appearance, took his side with the majority of his fellow-countrymen. He told us he was a Unionist. Until he spoke to-night I wondered how he contrived to get returned for a city which I conceived to be rooted in a creed of a different kind. After I had listened to his speech I felt that he at least had shown how it was possible to be permeated by the doctrine of governing Ireland according to Irish ideas. I congratulate him upon his brilliant speech, and I hope we shall have many more such interventions in this debate.

There is one thing in the course of this debate which I confess has struck me with astonishment, and I wish to refer to it because I think it has an important bearing upon the form the reference to the Royal Commission must assume. The motion before the House affirms two propositions which are distinct. The second one, important as it is, is the grievance which the Irish Catholic population are suffering under the existing system of education. The earlier part of the motion affirms a proposition which no speaker deems it worth while to deal with, and that is that the provision of education of the university type in Ireland is wholly inadequate. Is that a proposition which anybody in this House can controvert? I am not an Irish representative, but I have followed this question with keen interest, and I have studied these matters in Ulster and Belfast and upon the spot, and nothing has struck me so much as the total inadequacy of the speeches of the representatives of Ulster to represent the real grievance. The right hon. Gentleman who sits on the Front Bench below the gangway addressed this House as if there was really no question except one between Catholics and those who thought Catholic demands ought not to be granted. The right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh, who spoke earlier in the debate, took exactly the same line. They ask, What is the justification for this motion? They do not seem to be aware of what the position of Ireland is in this respect as compared with the rest of the United Kingdom. Ireland has one single teaching university. It has colleges, but for every one college it has got you can point to three in this country. Ireland has one teaching university for a population of 5,000,000, whereas Scotland, with the same population, has four, England has seven, and Germany, with a population of 50,000,000, has twenty-two, besides almost innumerable technical schools of university rank. At the present moment Queen's College, Belfast, is making an effort to raise money to put itself in an adequate position, the funds with which it is endowed being totally inadequate. Thus the only college of the kind in the middle of a great commercial city finds itself in such a position that it is not able to carry out its functions efficiently. The success of the industries of large cities depend upon the application of skill, knowledge, and of science. Any of the small insignificant German towns would put Belfast in the shade in this respect. Not long ago, through the courtesy of the authorities, I made a study of the technical institution at Berlin. This institution, which ought to have something corresponding to it in the Queen's College, Belfast, gives instruction in shipbuilding, in the application of chemistry to various industries, and in many sciences, and sends out 2,000 students annually, whom employers are glad to secure, and to the ablest of whom they give premiums for their inventions. It is a scandal that the industrial industries of the north of Ireland have not instruction of this type. A Royal Commission is to be appointed, and I share the misgivings of the hon. Member for East Mayo as to the utility of this. It is no new question. Sixty years ago Sir Robert Peel took the matter in hand and founded the Queen's colleges, and there have been innumerable inquiries and discussions since. I should have thought that a Government with a powerful majority could have offered something less jejune than a Royal Commission. It is not long ago since the First Lord of the Treasury expressed his own opinion upon this question in an admirable letter, in which he vindicated the claims of Ireland with great courage. He put forward a scheme for two new universities, one for the north, in Belfast, and another for the south, in Dublin, which might form the basis for the general principles. Why not first lay down the general principles, and then appoint a statutory Commission to give effect to them, as was done in the case of the London University? It was for the Government to determine the principles.

Assuming that this Commission is

going to be an accomplished fact, it is important that we should realise what the position in Ireland at this moment really is. There are at present three colleges—one in Galway, one in Cork, and one in Belfast—having an endowment of about £10,000 a year each. Galway educates a little over 100 students, Cork 200, and Belfast about 400, although Belfast used to educate more. The case of Belfast has been grossly neglected in this debate. I wish to emphasise the fact that the grievance which the House is invited to remedy is a Protestant grievance as much as a Catholic grievance. The Catholics constitute the majority, but you cannot leave out of account the important Protestant grievance. What is the position of Queen's College, Belfast? Until the year 1880 these three colleges constituted what is known as the Queen's University, which examined students and gave degrees to them. In 1880 the administration of Lord Beaconsfield took a very remarkable step. To begin with, it abolished the Queen's University, and constituted the Royal University as a mere examining board. But in the next place, while professing to do this, and this only, it founded a number of Fellowships of £400 a year apiece, with the intention that a large number of them should be assigned to the Roman Catholic University College in Dublin. That was a Jesuit institution, and by this step Catholic endowment was brought about through a back door. With regard to the Jesuit Institution, he had seen something of its work, which would do credit to some much better-endowed institutions. It has a substantial endowment, and the income goes into the common fund. But it has got something more. It has a large influence in regard to the examination of the Royal Irish University. Its teachers are, in many cases, examiners. I hear from all quarters that the Queen's College students feel the injustice of this, and the disadvantage at which they are placed as compared with the students of the University College in competing in the examinations of the Royal Irish University. The result is that in Belfast there is a very real grievance felt in the advantage which the Jesuit College possesses over the colleges in other parts of Ireland. In that condition of things, what is the prospect which the Government has to face? The plan of the First Lord of the Treasury seems to me to be an admirable one. He proposed to constitute two universities, one for the north and the other for the south of Ireland. They were to take the place of the Royal Irish University, and they were to be teaching universities just as much as the London University, which includes King's and University Colleges. The new university in the north was to have its seat in Belfast, and would take in as colleges, not only the Queen's College, but probably the Magee College in Londonderry, and some of the teachers of the training college at Belfast. In the south the university was to have its seat in Dublin, and would have embraced certain of the teaching bodies in the south of Ireland. That was an intelligible policy, and why was it objected to? It was objected to upon the ground that inevitably the government of the university in the north would become in the main Protestant, while that in Dublin would become Catholic. I think that was very likely to be so. You cannot avoid it in a country where denominationalism permeates every institution. In Ireland undenominational education means the equal treatment of all denominations, and nothing more.

When people like myself have to choose between no education at all and education which is denominational, I for my part much prefer that there should be denominational education—as little denominational as possible—but education I must have of some kind. It is idle for people to come here and ask, Why cannot Catholics go to Protestant colleges, or to colleges with no religious features about them? The answer is that Catholics will not go, and I do not see why they should be punished for refusing. The House is dealing with a country where four-fifths of the people are Catholics, and how is it possible to set their tenets at naught? Distinguished members of the Catholic Church in Ireland have told me that they do not ask for an atmosphere in which the teaching should be directly Catholic, but for this as a minimum—an atmosphere into which they could send their sons and daughters with some certainty that they would not be exposed to influences which would undermine their Catholic faith; they would rather have influences that were Anglican, Baptist, or Plymouth Brother than the influence of Agnosticism. You may agree or disagree, but it is a perfectly intelligible proposition. When you go to the North you find an equal demand on the part of the great Presbyterian organisations which exist there. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has taken an active part in this matter, and it has sent forth resolutions from time to time absolutely condemning the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. MACARTNEY: The hon. Gentleman should quote them.

*MR. HALDANE: I have read half a score of them, pointing out that the existing university education is absolutely unsatisfactory.

*MR. MACARTNEY: I never said it was satisfactory. I was arguing against that particular fallacy.

*MR. HALDANE: Now at last the right hon. Gentleman stands forth as a repentant sinner. The important point is that education of a university type, for Protestants and Catholics alike, is, so far as Ireland is concerned, totally unsatisfactory. There has been before the country for some time past a definite and perfectly clear view of what the situation is from the university point of view in Ireland. You have also to recognise that there has been a proposition put forward of a perfectly specific and definite order for remedying the difficulties existing there. I have seen no reason to doubt that by far the best scheme is that which, to his credit, will ever be associated with the name of the First Lord of the Treasury. I regret that the colleagues of the right hon. Gentleman in the Government do not show the same courage that he showed. With a majority of 140 on a matter which has been thought out and debated they thought it necessary to appoint a Royal Commission! This is not the way to get anything done, and I do not think anything will come of a Royal Commission. Apparently the Government regard Trinity College as like the Ark of the Covenant—that he who laid a hand upon it would surely perish. There is a real and substantial grievance to be dealt with, and it must be dealt with according to Irish ideas, and not according to British prejudices.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester E.): Every Member of the House who was a Member of it in the last Parliament is aware that I have on several occasions had to address speeches to it on the important subject before us now; and my views, which are personal views, and which do not commit my colleagues, as they were never intended to commit my colleagues, have so often been laid before this Assembly that I do not think it necessary or desirable to attempt to traverse the whole ground or cover all the issues which are raised by the resolution on the Paper. I am rather struck by the fact that but few English or Scottish Members have risen to oppose the motion. I do not wish to emphasise that fact, or to suggest for an instant that it indicates that there is anything like unanimity or general approval on either side of the House with regard to the motion. But I do think it indicates the fact that it is not very easy to argue that the needs of Irish education—for that is the fundamental point which we have to consider—are not of a kind which require the intervention of this House, or some further assistance than this House has yet been able to give. Do not let it be understood that I underrate the natural reluctance and objection which an Assembly in the main Protestant may feel towards the proposals which I or others have from time to time recommended for solving this problem. I do not underrate those objections. They are natural, and they suggest themselves without difficulty to the electors of English and Scottish constituencies. And yet I am persuaded that they are objections which have in them no real weight or substance. My right hon. friend the Member for South Antrim quoted a statement of mine which I confess I had forgotten, but which I am quite ready to acknowledge if he fathers it upon me, that I am a person of bigoted Protestant tendencies; and he doubted whether the bigotry or, at any rate, the quality of my Protestantism was not open to some serious question. Let us just consider that point. My right hon. friend and those who think with him have two objections to a scheme for giving further facilities for the higher education of Roman Catholics in Ireland. The first is a political objection, the second is an educational objection. Now, the political objection is that the Roman Catholic Church, as its history tells us, in Ireland and elsewhere, has not only been a great religious organisation, but also a great religious organisation which has intervened very powerfully in politics in a manner in which my right hon. friend and I agree, in many cases at all events, in deeply deploring. Granted that—I am speaking in the character of the bigoted Protestant of my right hon. friend—how is the proposal of giving higher education to Roman Catholics in Ireland likely to increase the political power of the Roman Catholic Church regarded not as a religious but as a political organisation? For the life of me I am unable to see it. My right hon. friend the Member for North Armagh quoted to-night a sentence of Mr. Gladstone's, written, I think, in 1874, in which he said that the Irish priest was the master of the Irish people, that the Irish bishop was the master of the Irish priest, and that the Pope was the master of all three. If that be the present condition of the Irish people—and that is my right hon. friend's hypothesis—how is that position made worse by educating the Irish people?

*MR. MACARTNEY: My right hon. friend will admit that there is no university in Ireland to which the Roman Catholic laity can go except to Trinity College, Dublin. If a new university is created it would be under the authority of the Pope and the laity would be forced to go there under the authority of the bishops.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is a very argumentative interruption; but let us assume with him that the five per cent. of the Roman Catholics among the Trinity College students cease to go to Trinity College in future and go to some other college with equal liberality of statute as Trinity College. I want to ask him what difference that would make as to the control of the Irish priests over the Irish people, the Irish bishop over the Irish priest, and the Pope over all? I confess it seems to me almost inconceivable that any one should seriously suppose that the grip of the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical organisation on the Irish people should be politically increased by the formation of such a university as is contemplated here. I go from the political to the educational objection. I admit that the educational objection is one which naturally appeals to the Protestant mind. What is that objection? The objection is this, and I hope that no Roman Catholic in this House will object to my stating it as it appears to me, at all events. I believe it to be the fact that in many universities on the Continent, and perhaps elsewhere, the bases of education which have been under entirely Roman Catholic control have not shown that broad spirit of free investigation which we regard as one of the highest qualifications, one of the highest attributes of a modern university. Very well, let us assume that that is true, and my own view is that in some cases it has been true; but what then? Is it not better that you should have a university of some kind in which education in science, in languages, in literature, in classics, in ancient history should be taught, than that you should have no university? In these subjects there can be no clerical control. A Jesuit teaching Latin and Greek, a Jesuit teaching mathematics—[Ministerial cries of "History"]—a Jesuit teaching ancient history——(HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.) I am putting it from an extreme point of view—what can he do to pollute the pure spring of education? He can do nothing. Well, is it not better from an educational point of view, supposing that these sinister ecclesiastical influences were to have all the effect which my right hon. friend attributes to them, at all events that there should be some place where our Irish fellow-countrymen should learn these great elements of a liberal education, than that they should have no place at all? Mark you, I am putting it at the worst. I am assuming, what I have no right to assume, that some portions of modern science would not be taught with that freedom of investigation which we all desire. I mentioned, I think, in the topics that could not be perverted, classics, ancient history, mathematics; I might add all the physical sciences. Yes, all the physical sciences. They cannot be touched by clerical influence. All the secular arts—they cannot be touched by clerical influence. Are they nothing? And because my right hon. friend supposes that the views of modern history—modern religious history especially—

and of modern philosophy may possibly be perverted by clerical influence, are we on that account to refuse to the great majority of the Irish people the blessings of the higher education in those great subjects which we all admit can be equally well taught, and are equally well taught, in every university where competent teachers are allowed? I therefore venture to say that from the extreme Protestant point of view neither the political danger nor the educational danger, taken at their extreme limits, are of a kind which ought to induce this Assembly, which is in the main a Protestant Assembly, to refuse to the Irish people those great benefits of higher education which are so freely given to Scotchmen and to Englishmen.

But, while I take that view, I confess that, speaking as a bigoted Protestant, I cannot follow my right hon. and gallant friend in the view he has expressed about Trinity College, Dublin. My right hon. and gallant friend said he would welcome Trinity College, Dublin, being flooded by Roman Catholic students from all parts of Ireland. I confess my Protestantism, my liberality, does not go that length. I look at the history of Trinity College, Dublin. I see it has from the very beginning of its history been associated with Protestantism. I see that now, although it is perfectly true, as my right hon. friend near me has pointed out, that it has thrown open the door to every form of opinion, and interposes no obstacle in the way of any student, whatever his religious or irreligious opinions may be, still the prevailing atmosphere of that university is Protestant. Frankly, I rejoice at it. I am glad that in a country where the great mass of the population are not Protestant there should be this great historical place of education, Protestant by tradition, Protestant in fact, and I hope it will remain Protestant in fact, and that through all time Trinity College will be a place where a Protestant parent may send his son with the certainty that he will find in it, not, indeed, bigoted priests, not, indeed, narrow views, not any spirit of proselytism abroad, but those principles of intellectual freedom which we Protestants associate with university education. My right hon. and gallant friend differs from me. He would like to see the majority of the students Roman Catholic. He would like to see, as a consequence, the provost Roman Catholic. [Cries of "No."] All these results follow logically, directly, and immediately from the view which my right hon. and gallant friend has presented to us. I hope I am not incapable of breadth of view, but my breadth of view does not lead me into those illimitable speculations of my right hon. and gallant friend. I hear him express some dissent; where is my logic at fault?

Colonel SAUNDERSON: I said nothing, Sir.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: My right hon. and gallant friend gave an inarticulate groan, but whether it was from any defect in the reasoning I presented or not I cannot say. In any case, my view is that, however regrettable it may be, you will not see the needs of Irish education satisfied unless you follow in the case of the higher and university education of Ireland the course which you have been driven, whether you like it or not, to take in the case of primary and of secondary education. I regret it, but the man who does not accept the facts which are thrust before his eyes by every incident alike in contemporary and past history surely is guilty of deliberate blindness.

The hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Haddington called the attention of the House to what is, or what ought to be, our leading consideration on this occasion. Has Ireland, or has it not, an adequate practical machinery for the higher education of the youth of the country? I say it is behind England, Scotland, France, Germany, and America in that respect. Do you think it an adequate way of dealing with the situation to say, "If the Irish only knew their own business they would send their sons to Trinity College, Dublin." Well, they do not send their sons to Trinity College, Dublin, and the result is that the Roman Catholics of Ireland do not have those educational advantages which we desire for them. But have all Protestants in Ireland those advantages? When I was Chief Secretary for Ireland, a good many years ago, the representatives of the Belfast Queen's College came to me more than once and earnestly pressed upon me the obvious necessity of doing something considerable for that institution. I thought their case was unanswerable; but I was obliged to tell them that the idea of giving sums of public money to the Queen's College, Belfast, which is, broadly speaking, a Presbyterian college—[Several HON. MEMBERS: No!]—well, which in the main is a Presbyterian college—[Several HON. MEMBERS. No!]—in order to equip it in the manner it ought to be equipped, was entirely illusory and absolutely impossible; that no Government would take it up, that no practical statesman would look at it, until an attempt was made to put higher education in Ireland upon a rational basis; and from that day to this Protestant education in Belfast—the great manufacturing centre of Ireland, which has to compete with England, Germany, France, and America—is starved because we will not consent to deal in a broad spirit with this question. I earnestly press upon the House, irrespective of those religious prejudices which stand like a wall in the way of progress, to consider whether it is decent or tolerable that we should continue to starve the education, not only of the Roman Catholics, but of the Protestants in the north of Ireland, on account of views and feelings which, though they have their justification, and are natural, must on analysis vanish before the light of higher wisdom.

I am afraid I have plunged again into the broad merits of the controversy on which I have dwelt almost too often, but I will content myself now with saying a word or two about the Commission. The hon. and learned Member for Haddington complained that the Government had consented to the Royal Commission. He said we knew all about the question, that we were a strong Government, and that, therefore, we ought to have taken the matter in hand and dealt with it. To that I would point out, in the first place, that the Commission was not our suggestion. It was suggested by the Royal University of Ireland, who, irrespective of creed, unanimously begged us to appoint a Commission to investigate their own shortcomings—I do not use the word in a critical sense, but their own failure to carry out the work for which they were created. When a great body like that, representing men of all religious opinions, came forward, and said, "We have failed to do what we were constituted to do, we cannot do it under our authorisation, and we ask you to appoint a Commission to investigate the subject of university education in Ireland," was it possible for any responsible Government to refuse such a request? It was not possible. That alone was an adequate justification for the course which the Government have pursued. The hon. and learned Gentleman talked of this being a question to be taken up by the Government as a Government question. He knows very well that, by a tradition now existing for at least three or four generations, this is one of those questions which, in the nature of the case, are open questions. Then do not ask the Government as a Government to take it up, for that clearly is impossible. If the hon. and learned Member were Leader of a Government would he regard it as otherwise? I understand the two Front Benches are agreed as to that. I should say there is even less sympathy upon that bench than upon this. It is necessary in these circumstances that we should have the fullest information on the subject, and I trust that when the Commission reports—which I do not think will be very long—the result will be that public opinion in the country will render it perfectly possible for this House to deal practically with the problem which I have been endeavouring to elucidate.

That is all I have to say on the merits of the question. I will just say one word on the Vote which is to be given to-night if the Amendment is carried to a division. The original motion before the House is that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, to which an Amendment has been moved dealing with the question of Irish University education. I may be permitted to say, as there may be some Members in the House not quite familiar with its forms, that, according to the universal practice, it is necessary for all those who desire to support the Government to vote for the original motion, and of course everybody on this bench, including myself, will take that view, and all who desire to support the Government will follow their example. What will be the result? The result of that will be that a division, if it is forced, will in no sense represent the views of the House on this question. Many gentlemen on this side of the House who agree entirely with me must go into the lobby against the Amendment, and that being so I would venture to suggest to the hon. Gentleman who has moved the Amendment that he would probably serve the cause he has at heart by not enforcing a division, by contenting himself with the discussion and with the general expression of the feelings of the House, which are much better indicated by the speeches which have been delivered than they can possibly be by a vote given on the Amendment. In these circumstances I trust the hon. Gentleman will not press the motion to a division. If he does, I am sorry to say I shall have to vote against him.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I trust the House will permit me in the few moments which still remain to express very briefly some views upon this question. I desire to acknowledge in the fullest way the sympathetic tone in which the Leader of the House has spoken. This is not the first time he has spoken on this subject with sympathy, and expressed a desire to settle the question; but I must give expression to the feeling which is strong in my breast, and which must be strong in the breasts of all Irishmen who have followed this question for some years, and that is the feeling of how difficult it is to distinguish between the action of the right hon. Gentleman as an individual and his action as the representative of the Government. As an individual I admit in the fullest way the sympathy and support which he has given for many years past to this question, but I dispute altogether the proposition he has laid before the House to-night, that this is to be regarded as the one question of great and paramount importance which is to be left an open question to all Governments. What does he mean? When has it become the rule or the fashion that the Irish University question should be an open question with Governments? It was not so twenty or thirty years ago. I know not by what right he asserts that to-day it is a question upon which Members of various Governments may fairly be allowed to differ. I have not time to enter upon an elaborate argument, but I desire to put one argument before the House, viz., that there is no question affecting Ireland the history of which is such a conclusive argument in favour of Home Rule as this question of University Education. Here is a grievance affecting an overwhelming majority of the people of Ireland, and affecting them in the most intimate way, admitted to be a grievance for the last thirty years from time to time by statesmen of different parties. For the last thirty years this has been admitted to be a grievance injuriously affecting the whole wellbeing of the Irish nation, and yet generation after generation of young boys have been allowed to grow up into manhood without the advantage of university education. There never was a question upon which Government pledges, given in all solemnity to Ireland, were so flagrantly broken. In 1878 Lord Cairns, representing the Conservative party in the House of Lords, in introducing the Intermediate Education Act, said—

> "This Bill is the necessary preliminary to a great measure dealing with higher education, the need for which is acknowledged by all political parties. This important Bill is the building of the walls of which a University Bill will be the roof."

In 1885, when the Conservative party were again in office, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, then the Leader of the House, gave a specific pledge. It was not then the doctrine of the Conservative party that this was an open question. Upon that occasion the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking on behalf of the Government, gave an absolute pledge on this question. He said—

> "They would continue to regard this question with hope, with the wish to do something to make University education more general and widespread in Ireland; and, should it be their lot to be in office next session, with the determination to make some practical proposal that would deal in a satisfactory way with this important matter."

I submit that that was a specific pledge on behalf of the Government. The Conservative Government were in office the next year, and from that day to this, with the exception of the period from 1892 to 1895, they held the reins of office, and yet this pledge has never been redeemed. I respectfully say to the Leader of the House, when he declares to-night that he speaks only as an individual and not as the representative of the Government, that in 1889, when he spoke in this House, he gave an absolute pledge on behalf of this Government. He said, speaking on behalf of the Government—

> "That the Government had no alternative but to try and devise a scheme by which the

wants of the Catholics of Ireland would be met,"

and when pressed by Mr. Parnell on behalf of the Irish Members for an even more definite pledge, he said—

> "There is no possibility of dealing with the question except by a Bill, and I cannot give a pledge at this moment of the exact order in which the various questions will be dealt with by the Government next session."

I say with all respect that was a specific pledge, given in 1889, by the present Leader of the House, not as an individual, but as the representative of the Government. But from that day to this the pledge has remained unfulfilled.

It cannot be said that the Government has been impeded in this matter by the want of co-operation on the part of the representatives of the Catholic people of Ireland, for in 1889 the present Leader of the House, in a speech delivered in Scotland, laid down the conditions on which the Government would deal with this question. Those conditions were specifically accepted by the Catholic hierarchy and the Nationalist Members of Parliament. Those conditions were, first, that there was to be no Catholic university in the sense of being so exclusively Catholic as to shut out people of other denominations; second, that no State aid was to be given for a theological chair; and third, that there should be a conscience clause. All those conditions were accepted. They were formally accepted by a declaration of the Catholic hierarchy, and yet no progress has been made with the question since then. I repeat that the whole history of this question is one of broken pledges given by the Government to Ireland, and I say that if the case for Home Rule stood alone on this question of university education, there would be a conclusive case made out on behalf of remitting to the Irish people the management of their own affairs. Of all the grievances affecting Ireland this is the most practical. The idea that this question affects only the richer and higher classes is an absurdity. It affects every class in the community in Ireland. To give an instance. Only the other day I was making inquiries in Dublin as to the working of the new Department of Agriculture. What was the information I obtained? That department is engaged in endeavouring to create schools of science and technical education in various parts of the country; but I was informed that the work is absolutely blocked; and why? They have found it almost impossible to get teachers for these schools in Ireland. The result will be that these schools will be permanently blocked, or else it will be necessary for the department to bring over teachers from England and Scotland. I think it would be impossible to prove in a more conclusive way the injury done to Ireland by the deprivation of the advantages of higher education.

In listening to some of the speeches to-night it struck me that there is still some apprehension as to what exactly the Catholics of Ireland are asking for in this matter. We are asking simply for equality. Allusion has been made to Dublin University by many speakers. That university was founded with the avowed object of planting the Protestant religion in Ireland. For over two hundred years that university was exclusively Protestant, and it is Protestant to-day in this respect, that the entire of its governing body is Protestant; its teaching body is Protestant; and it has a divinity school and a chapel within its walls with Protestant services. Its traditions, its spirit, and its atmosphere are all admittedly Protestant. It is unnecessary to labour that point. Trinity College is proud of its Protestant traditions, and I sympathise to a large extent with the views of the First Lord of the Treasury on that point. I remember when the Test Abolition Act was passed the Irish Catholic Members protested against a policy of secularising Trinity College. We Irish Catholics do not desire to see Trinity College divested of its Protestant atmosphere. We far prefer that it should be a Protestant institution rather than that all religion should be banished from it, and that it should be lowered to the level of the godless colleges in Cork, Belfast, and Galway. All we ask for is that the Catholics of Ireland, the great bulk of the population, should receive an equality of treatment, and should have a university as Catholic in character as Trinity College is Protestant.

And, speaking of Ireland generally, let me say there is a large amount of agreement in that country on this question. The right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh does not represent the largest or most important section of Protestant opinion in this matter. Trinity College itself has spoken in no uncertain voice, and has declared by its most distinguished professors, and to-night by one of the Members representing it in this House, that it is not opposed to a university for the Catholics of Ireland; and I say nothing is easier for the Government of the day than to propose a scheme carrying out the views which have the support of so large a number of the leading Protestants of Ireland. They have not, however, done so. They have instead proposed a Royal Commission, and on that question I desire to associate myself to the full with the remarks made by the hon. Member for East Mayo. We did not ask for this Commission. We were not consulted about the appointment of this Commission. I may say that if we had been consulted about it—speaking for myself—we would not have approved of it. I regard this Commission as an evasion of the solemn pledges of the Government, as an evasion of a plain duty, and as an attempt to postpone legislation because the Government fears to introduce a Bill. It is not the Irish opinion that on this great question, which you admit is a grievance, prevents you introducing legislation, but opinion in England. And this constitutes the strongest argument conceivable in favour of Home Rule. I have not time to deal with the question in reference to this Commission beyond saying that although an inquiry into the emoluments and management of Trinity College is to be excluded from the purview of this Commission, at the same time it will be impossible for any Commission to conduct this inquiry into university education in Ireland without taking Trinity College into account. There it is, with all its emoluments and all its educational advantages for the Protestants, and in considering how the claims of the Catholics can be fairly met this Commission will be forced to take that college as it stands, and our claim will be that they shall afford to the Catholic people of Ireland at least as high facilities and as good an educational medium as Trinity College for the benefit of Protestants. My opinion about the Commission—and I say it perfectly boldly and frankly—is that nothing will come of it. I hope the contrary will prove the truth. At the same time I would be sorry to take any responsibility in wrecking this Commission, and I do not want to do or say anything to discredit it in advance.

This brings me to the question of what advice I can give to my hon. friend with reference to taking a division. Of course I recognise the truth of what the First Lord of the Treasury has said. No division on this question to-night can fairly or honestly represent the opinion of the House, but there is something weighing on my mind above and beyond that. I believe a division taken on this question to-night, even it be an unreal majority—even if there is a large majority against the Amendment of my hon. friend—will be a discrediting beforehand of the work of the Commission. Therefore, under these circumstances I cannot advise my hon. friend to proceed to a division. My advice to him is to rest content with the debate that has taken place and with the position which we have taken. We do not take any responsibility in regard to this Commission. We do not wish to thwart or impede this Commission. We say, "Go on with your inquiry; if it leads to nothing, as most probably it will, the responsibility will not rest upon us; it will rest on you." Our hands will be untied; we will be free, as representing the laity of Ireland, to take what action we think fit in proposing a remedy, quite irrespective of any influences that are at work. For these reasons I would advise my hon. friend to withdraw his motion.

Mr. ROCHE said that in deference to the opinion of his hon. friend the leader of his Party, and in response to the appeal of the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury, he would withdraw the Amendment.

Objection being taken—

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): On a point of order, if the Amendment is not to be withdrawn——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. T. M. HEALY: I submit that the closure not having been moved any hon. Member has a right to address the Chair, even though midnight is striking——

It being midnight, Mr. SPEAKER interrupted the business, whereupon—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed that the Question be now put.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 235; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 134.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W. B (Hants
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn L'rd G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar

Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Calmont, Col. H L B. (Cambs.
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford V.
Middlemore, John T.
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Perks, Robert William
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Maj. Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Ropner, Col. Robert
Round, James
Rutherford, John

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Saunderson, Rt Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Ta'nt'n
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Bell, Richard
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn C R (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan N.
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

MR. BALFOUR claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 239; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 135.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. AllenBenjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, AlexanderH. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin L.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, Charles Edw. H. A.
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mlets, SGeo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir JosephCockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dske, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, RtHn Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes

Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, MajEvans (T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, HenryD. (Shrewsbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, RtHnLordG. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'ry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. RobertWm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, J. (Staffords., N. W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Rbt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversh.)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jessel, CaptainHerbertMerton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. SirJohn H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo T. (Denbigh
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, ArthurH (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Col. CharlesW. (Evesham
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, RtHn. W (Cum. Penr.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, RtHnW. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Cl. H. L. B. (Cambs
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, SirLewis (EdinburghW
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Majendie, James A. H.

Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, DavidJ (Walthamst'w
Morgan, HnFred. (Monm'thsh.
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, RtHnA. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, SirMarkJ. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE (Taunton
Welby, SirCharles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton undLyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)

Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rn. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caine, William Sproston
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Sir Edw. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Arthur H A. (Deptford)
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestly, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Norh'nts
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J A (Gl'morg'n, Gower)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, O. (Merioneth)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

WAYS AND MEANS.

[19TH APRIL.]

Resolution reported.

LOAN.

"That, towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and two, sums not exceeding sixty million pounds may be raised by all or any of the following methods:—

(a) by means of the creation of two and three-quarter per cent. Consolidated Stock within the meaning of the National Debt Conversion Act, 1888; or

(b) by means of the issue of further War Stock or War Bonds under the War Loan Act, 1900; or

(c) by means of the issue of Treasury Bills; or

(d) by means of the issue of Exchequer Bonds;

and that the principal of, and interest on, any sum so raised be charged on the Consolidated Fund."

Resolution read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. JOHN REDMOND said it would be in the recollection of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the House that the other night the right hon. Gentleman made an appeal to the House to allow the resolution to go through, on the ground that it would be a serious inconvenience to have the discussion prolonged. Speaking on behalf of the Irish Members, he agreed then that the right hon. Gentleman should get the resolution, stating, of course, that there would be an opportunity for discussion on Report. He felt sure that under the circumstances the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not persist with the Report that night. He had no desire to obstruct business, or to prolong discussion on this matter, but it was a clear understanding that there would be an opportunity for discussion on Report.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) said he did not wish to press the matter further that night.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he was obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for the statement that he would not force the matter on that night.

Debate adjourned till to-morrow at Two of the clock.

ARMY ANNUAL BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith, in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) moved an Amendment on line 9 in order to ascertain from the Government whether the Bill applied to "all" courts of inquiry. The authorities on this subject were very much divided. A great number of courts of inquiry had been held during the present war in South Africa which were not held subject to the rules laid down in the rules of procedure. If the Government denied that, then they would know where they were, and they would come to the discussion of the Amendment which the hon. and gallant Member for Taunton had on the Paper with a clear opinion of what it was they were going to discuss.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 9, to leave out the word 'all.'"—*Sir Charles Dilke.*

Question proposed, "That the word 'all' stand part of the question."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) said he could not accept the Amendment, because it was exactly contrary to the intention of the clause. The intention of the clause was to give power in certain cases to courts of inquiry held under Clause 70 of the Army Act to administer oaths in order to make the inquiry more formal. It was not intended to affect courts not held under Clause 70.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he understood the right hon. Gentleman in the first part of his speech to imply—although he did not distinctly state it—that he took the view which he (Sir Charles) had put before the House, namely, that this change in the law would not apply to all courts of inquiry. But in the last words of his speech the right hon. Gentleman seemed to go back on that, because he said that in South Africa some persons had been involved who had not been heard, but had been reported on by courts of inquiry as though these had been formal courts. If the Amendments were not to apply to all courts of inquiry he would withdraw his word "all," which was moved in order to elicict this fact.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that the clause took one's breath away. He had understood that the evidence was in all cases to be taken on oath, but it seemed to read that evidence on oath could only be taken in one, the first, class of courts mentioned in the clause. Officers ought to have some better and clearer guidance.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) thought the hon. Member for North Louth was right in his contention. Section 70 of the Army Act applied only to courts of inquiry constituted under that Act, and the proposed Amendment on Clause 4 would also be restricted to that class of courts of inquiry. He understood that the point raised by the right hon. the Member for Forest of Dean was that there were investigations which might not be courts of inquiry in the sense of the Act, but which were held under the general prerogative of the Crown as head of the Army, and the question was whether the proposed new rule that evidence might be taken on oath would apply to these courts.

Mr. BRODRICK was understood to say that it would not.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said if the amendment to Clause 70 of the Army Act was only to apply to statutory courts, the evils against which his hon. and gallant friend the Member for Taunton wished to protest would continue to exist. Having elicited the facts, he asked leave to withdraw his amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the rules of procedure actually carried the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. and gallant Member for Taunton.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton) said his object was to get the words inserted in the Act, and to add "or efficiency," which words were not in the rules of procedure. As a matter of fact, in courts of inquiry in South Africa the rules of procedure had been left on one side, and the reason given was that the word "character" did not involve an officer's military efficiency. Efficiency ought to be added, because efficiency was a very great portion of an officer's military character. His reason for inserting the words in the Act of Parliament was to make it beyond dispute that, whenever evidence was taken on oath, the officer should have an opportunity of being present, of cross-examining the witnesses, and of making his defence. He believed that courts of inquiry had been held in South Africa which had seriously affected officers and non-commissioned officers, who had been judged in their absence. Evidence taken on oath could be produced at a court-martial, and therefore it would be inevitable that the person incriminated would have an opportunity of being present at the proceedings, of cross-examining the witnesses, and stating his own defence. It was perfectly true that during a campaign it might be necessary to hold advisory courts to collect evidence, but that evidence could be collected in the ordinary way by a prerogative court, and what he wanted was that, in cases like the surrenders in South Africa, the persons implicated should have the right to be present at the courts of inquiry, and to cross-examine the witnesses, and that the evidence should be taken on oath.

If evidence of that kind were to be given, he believed it would be the means of greatly increasing a serious defect in the organisation of the Army as compared with that of the Navy, namely, a want of responsibility in taking action against those who were inefficient in the field. He was sure that that could not be said of his right hon. friend, for he had acted bravely in his position, and he admired him for it. But what was the practice of the Army as a whole? The practice was to avoid responsibility, and for a general to shield himself behind a court of inquiry. It would be very simple for a general if he wished to get rid of an officer, instead of taking the responsibility himself, to fall back on the proceedings of a court of inquiry taken upon oath and to say to the officer that that evidence was taken on oath, that there could be no doubt about it, and that, therefore, he must recommend that the officer be removed from his command. He believed that the great object of the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was to deal with the cases of surrender which had occurred in South Africa, and to abolish the present system of first having a court of inquiry and then a court-martial, in favour of a system of one inquiry upon oath, which would finally decide how a surrender had been caused. Very great injustice might result. He did not think it was possible in all cases to assimilate the procedure in the Army to that in the Navy. In the Navy the commander of a ship was responsible, but a military commander might be tied by an order just received before a disaster. Military officers, therefore, could not be tried as naval officers invariably were. What he desired was that if the rule of collecting evidence on oath by courts of inquiry were to be enforced, then most decidedly the safeguards for the officers and men incriminated should be inserted in the Act of Parliament and not left to rules of procedure, which, although they had to be laid on the Table of the House, might be overlooked, and a change might creep in which the House did not desire. As an officer, he unhesitatingly said that the words he proposed should be inserted in the Act. If they were not he believed it would be far better to leave things as they were. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 11, after 'that purpose,' add 'provided that whenever any such inquiry affects the character or efficiency of an officer or soldier, full opportunity shall be afforded to the officer or soldier of being present throughout the inquiry, and of making any statement he may wish to make, and of cross-examining any witness whose evidence, in his opinion, affects his character or efficiency, and producing any witnesses in defence of his character or efficiency.'"—(*Colonel Welby.*)

Question proposed, That those words be there inserted.

Mr. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) said he agreed with the hon. and gallant Gentleman that the words proposed by the right hon. Gentleman were hardly needed. In the rules of procedure it was laid down that courts of inquiry were to give no opinion as to the conduct of any officer or soldier. Why, then, was evidence to be taken on oath, when it was not to be admissible at any subsequent court? The court of inquiry had no judicial power, and was in strictness not a court at all. Why, therefore, have evidence upon oath? He would further point out that the officers forming a court of inquiry were not themselves sworn, whereas in the case of a court-martial the first thing that was done was to administer an oath to each officer composing the court to well and truly try the case. As far as he could understand it, a court of inquiry was merely an assemblage of persons directed by the commanding officer to collect evidence with respect to a transaction as to which he could not conveniently make inquiries himself. It seemed to him to be merely a preliminary inquiry to satisfy the commanding officer, who would decide, after having studied the evidence, whether there was a *prima facie* case against the officer concerned. He could not conceive why the right hon. Gentleman wished to insert the words, because the court was not a judicial court but merely a court to collect facts.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the court of inquiry would assemble not to give a verdict, but in order to provide the Commander-in-Chief with reliable information as to what had occurred, and experience showed that the more formal the evidence was made, by placing witnesses upon oath, the more certain would be the assurance of obtaining reliable information. His object was to make a court of inquiry a reality, and to make it reliable, not for the purpose of using the evidence as evidence before a court of law or a court-martial, but for the purpose of providing accurate information for the guidance of the Commander-in-Chief. He would ask the hon. and gallant Gentleman to accept his assurance that the rules of procedure would achieve the object he desired, and he was prepared to amend them by adding the words "or efficiency" as proposed, but he did not think it necessary that the Amendment should be inserted in the Bill.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said he thought that the right hon. Gentleman had fully met the point raised by the hon. and gallant Gentleman. He would, however, respectfully submit that the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was really putting a soldier or an officer in a position of greater danger than an ordinary civilian when his character or conduct was challenged. All laws made in a time of panic were bad, and the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was meant to meet a particular grievance which had suddenly arisen, and which could not be considered as fairly as if it had arisen in the ordinary course. The right hon. Gentleman said he proposed to invest courts of inquiry with a solemnity which they otherwise would not have. That was the very vice of the clause. It should be remembered that an officer or a soldier was not empanelled before a court of inquiry. He neither got a verdict of acquittal nor was he adjudged guilty, yet his character was ripped up and torn to pieces, and he went blasted before a court-martial. He would ask the Government, was it fair as a result of the war to start a novel procedure and to subject a soldier or an officer to a position of difficulty and doubt to which an ordinary person was not subject? He did not think the proposal was an improvement, or that it should be considered in Committee after midnight. He thought it should be considered by a Select Committee, upon which Army experts should be represented. The only case in which evidence could be taken on oath behind the back of the accused was that of a deserter. Now, forsooth, the Government proposed to place an officer or a general in command on a level with a deserter. That would be the effect of the clause. So far as he was concerned, personally he had not the smallest interest in the matter except the constitutional interest one took in the trials of one's fellows. But he would beg of the Government to pause before they introduced such a fatal change. Let the officer have the option of a court-martial in the first place, and let not his character be blasted beforehand by a court of inquiry.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE asked whether it was the intention of the Government to discourage non-statutory courts or prerogative courts, and to substitute courts of inquiry on oath in their stead? It was difficult to discuss the question as if the Committee had not certain cases in their minds; but when they were discussing what was to be done, they ought to consider whether in effect they were making a change which would in future guide such cases, or whether such cases would continue to be dealt with as in the past? The hon. and gallant gentleman referred to officers who would be affected in their absence, but in another part of his speech he showed that courts were in the habit of conducting proceedings in the absence of the officer concerned. That was because such courts were outside the section, and the Committee ought to understand that the proposal they were now discussing did not touch them at all. The case the hon. and gallant Gentleman had in his mind was the case of an officer who was affected by an inquiry into the conduct of another officer. In that inquiry all the things which the rules of procedure laid down should not be done were done. The Committee ought to know from the Government whether they proposed to substitute the procedure now under discussion for the ordinary procedure. The courts which were held for the collection of information for future use were not under the provisions of the law, or of the proposal by which they were now reforming them. The Secretary of State for War had adopted that view. He knew that high legal authorities held a contrary view. Undoubtedly many courts held during the present war have been outside the statutory courts, because they had done things which the statutory courts were forbidden to do. Surely the Committee ought to know whether it was the intention of the Government to supersede the existing procedure by the procedure now proposed.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said his right hon. friend assumed that the law only referred to what he called statutory courts. On reference to the Act of 1881, however, it would be seen that the rules of procedure dealt with all courts of inquiry. He was not aware of any statutory court of inquiry except that referred to in Section 72. The heading of Rule 124 was as follows: "Regulations for Courts of Inquiry other than Courts of Inquiry held under Section 72." Therefore the Secretary of State for War, who among his many advantages had not the advantage of being a lawyer, would find that very grave doubt existed on the matter. His own opinion was that the Amendment would refer to all courts of inquiry. For his own part, he agreed that it was desirable to give solemnity to evidence by taking it on oath on all inquiries affecting character. His hon. friend the Member for North Louth did not agree with him, but the only question, if they were to have such courts of inquiry now, was whether the evidence was to be taken in a more solemn and formal manner than in the past. He thought it was better that the evidence should be solemnly and formally than taken without any formality at all. On the larger point, he was of opinion that the Amendment referred to more than statutory courts. He thought it would refer to all courts of inquiry such as the courts referred to in Rule 124.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said there seemed to be a general agreement that the Secretary of State for War had fully dealt with the Amendment before the Committee. The hon. Member for North Louth seemed to think that there might be some aspersion cast on an officer or soldier if the evidence were taken on oath, but he would remind the hon. Member that the character of an officer or a soldier was protected to the same extent as if the evidence had not been taken on oath, and it was from that point of view he asked the Committee to accept the proposal. With reference to the remarks of the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries Burghs, Section 72 dealt with the case of soldiers absent without leave.

MR. ASQUITH thought it extremely desirable that the amendment of the law proposed by the Government should be made, whatever might be the scope of the inquiry. Whenever a question arose affecting the character or efficiency of an officer, it was infinitely better that the evidence, instead of being more or less a haphazard collection of gossip and irresponsible statements, should be evidence which had attaching to it the solemnity of an oath, so that if false statements were made prosecutions for perjury could follow. But notwithstanding the explanation of the Attorney General, the Committee were still in doubt as to the scope of the proposals. It was quite true that Section 72 of the Army Act referred only to courts of inquiry in cases of desertion, and in that case the statute conferred the power to administer an oath. Therefore, as far as that case was concerned, there was no necessity for this Amendment. What, then, were the "other courts" referred to under Section 70? No other courts were mentioned in the Act of Parliament; therefore, Section 70, which was perfectly general in its terms, and gave power to the Secretary of State to make rules as to the procedure, etc., of courts of inquiry, must be referring to courts of inquiry other than or beyond those mentioned in Section 72. *Prima facie* there was no restriction whatever as to the courts of inquiry to which it referred. Section 124 of the regulations apparently applied in terms to all courts of inquiry of any sort or kind except those under Section 72, and the only power to make Regulation 124 was the power contained in Section 70 of the Act. It seemed to him to follow that Section 70 of the Act applied to all courts of inquiry of any sort or kind; that Regulation 124, which otherwise would be *ultra vires*, applied also to all courts of inquiry; and, thirdly, that the amendment which the Government proposed to introduce, namely, that evidence might be taken on oath, applied equally to all courts of inquiry. Before the matter was disposed of he thought the Committee should come to some understanding, because this point had a very vital bearing on the future administration of the law.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked what would become of Regulation 124 if this clause became law. The position would be that they would have a court which was not a court, evidence which was not evidence, and oaths, apparently, which had no effect whatever. The regulation said "a court of inquiry has no judicial power," and yet the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fifeshire thought there might be prosecutions for perjury if false witness was borne on oath before a court which had no judicial power. He might be right in that view, but certainly His Majesty's Ministers were putting forward a new puzzle. The Regulation further stated that the court "is in strictness not a court at all." Was there ever such a proposition as that a man's character might be blasted for ever by evidence taken upon oath before a court which had no judicial power and which was not a court at all? The Government had recently issued an order that any man who in future exhibited the white flag should be court-martialled. The opening section of the Army Act stated "any person who shamefully abandons or delivers up any garrison, place, post, or guard, should on conviction by court-martial be liable to suffer death." Here was a case, then, in which a man's life might actually be at stake; but being a military man he would be in a position of greater inferiority than the humblest servant or subject of His Majesty. All this was being done because of the panic which had arisen in consequence of the unfortunate occurrences in South Africa. But if, as they were told, the war was nearly over, why could not the matter wait a bit? This was an important clause, affecting about 300,000 men. Where would these courts be held? On the veldt, perhaps, in some ramshackle place, with the men up to their knees in water, without any of the forms or decencies of judicial procedure. Without rhyme or reason the whole British constitution was being turned topsyturvey. As the clause stood, the court would have no power to compel witnesses to attend; in other words, the accusing party, which would always be the party of discipline, would have power to compel men to come forward, but the accused would not have the power even to issue a subpœna. One side only, and that the accusing side, would be presented, with the result that the moment the court of inquiry started there would be a presumption of guilt. Further, "the court of inquiry will give no opinion on the conduct of any officer or soldier." The Committee were told that the court was really intended to assist the Commander-in-Chief, and yet it could not even make a Report. Such regulations would not be allowed even for an Irish petty sessions court, and yet it was calmly proposed to pass this important clause between one and two o'clock in the morning.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) thought the clause might do great harm and produce a very extraordinary state of affairs. The members of a court-martial were practically selected in turn, and the individual opinions were not recorded. Such a body could, therefore, be very independent. With a court of inquiry it was totally different. The Commander-in-Chief put whatever men he liked upon a court of inquiry, and it could be ascertained how each member voted. The proceedings were secret, and the evidence was really only a string of affidavits, not subjected to the sifting of cross-examination. This proposal would put an enormous power into the hands of a central clique. If, however, the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Gentleman were accepted, so much harm would not be done.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY, in reply, submitted that the section alluded to did give a very considerable protection to those who might be in danger from courts of inquiry.

MR. LAMBERT thought an opportunity should be afforded the men of being present during the inquiry. The verdict in regard to the Lindley surrender was that Colonel Spragge could have held out longer had not some irresponsible person held up the white flag, yet those men were not called. Was an Amendment to remedy this going to be inserted in the Act, or did they intend to disregard it? They practically charged the men in this case with cowardice——

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member misunderstands the finding of the court, which was that persons not directed by Colonel Spragge to raise the white flag had raised it; and therefore no blame attached to Colonel Spragge.

MR. LAMBERT pointed out that the inquiry was to investigate the circumstances under which Lieut.-Colonel Spragge and others became prisoners of war. A lieutenant and a corporal were accused by this court of inquiry of having held up the white flag when they had no business to do it. The lieutenant was severely wounded, and could not attend, and the corporal had been discharged before the inquiry was held. Was it not plain that those men ought to have a right to be present at the court of inquiry? He thought this case afforded a very good reason for inserting the hon. and gallant Gentleman's Amendment in the Act.

MR. BRODRICK: It is impossible to provide that all men, wounded or unwounded, shall be present. These matters had to be brought to an issue promptly, and if such conditions were made obviously no court-martial or inquiry could be held at all.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: We have had several questions put pointedly to the Government. My right hon. friend the Member for East Fife and my hon. and learned friend have asked questions which have not been answered, and after all this discussion we shall still be legislating absolutely in the dark upon the main question. We do not know whether the law we are making is to apply to the principal courts, nor do we know whether the Government are going to discourage the holding of these inquiries. The hon. and gallant Member seemed to think that in courts held during the present war these rules had been observed, but that is not so. Inquiries have been held, and they have been called courts of inquiry, and their decisions have been printed in the usual form, and action has been taken on the decisions of those courts. That is entirely contrary to these rules, for those courts were entirely outside what we are dealing with to-night. The Member for East Fife has argued that these words must apply to all courts. I prefer the other alternative, that these courts have been courts outside the statute. I think some answer ought to have been given to the argument of my right hon. friend the Member for East Fife. We are still being asked to legislate in the dark.

Mr. BRODRICK assured the right hon. Gentleman that the intention of the Government was to discourage prerogative courts, and as far as possible to employ the new machinery of courts on oath under the rules of procedure.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said he thought the Attorney General was in error. Why, in a matter so important as this, should not the statute be made perfectly clear? The object they all had at heart was the same.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said he could not see that the definition clause affected the question in the least.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said if that was really the case, why should it be left in any doubt?

Colonel WELBY said he was satisfied with the explanation of the Secretary for War that the object he had in view was provided for, and he therefore asked leave to withdraw the Amendment. [Cries of "No" from Irish Members.]

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said he thought this a most useful Amendment. He objected to the sanction of an oath being given to camp gossip. Africa had been called the land of lies, but if this clause was carried in its present form they would have in addition to call it the land of blasphemy. He thought the procedure to be set up under this proposal was something very like the procedure adopted by the French, and which we had been condemning, in the case of Captain Dreyfus. That was the procedure we were going to apply under this section to our own officers.

Amendment negatived.

Question proposed, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. T. M. HEALY suggested that the questions which had been referred to in the debate on the Amendment should be considered by the Government.

Mr. BRODRICK assured the hon. and learned Member that they would take care to consider these matters.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—

Ayes, 148; Noes, 64. (Division List No. 136.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colville, John
Cranborne, Viscount
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, J. M. F.

Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon,Hn.J.E(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon,MjEvans-(T'rH'mlets
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'nd'ry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanl'y
Heath,James (Staffords, N.W.
Helme, Norval Watson
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse,C.E.H.(Bristol, E.)
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightsde
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,John (Kent, Faversh.
Jessel,CaptainHerbertMerton
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W.(Salop
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S
Levy, Maurice
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lucas,Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col.H.L.B(Cambs
M'Calmont,Col.J. (Antrim,E.
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell,WJH(Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
More,Robt.Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J.(Walthamstow)
Morgan,Hn.Fred.(Monm'thsh
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donal Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Peel,HnWm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley,Hon.M.W(Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Sadler, Col. SamuelAlexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkn'y)
Welby,Lt-Col.A CE.(Taunton
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R(Bath)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin,Major H. W.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Minch, Matthew
Murnaghan, George
Murphy. J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Shaw, Charles Edw.(Stafford)
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N
Tully, Jasper
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
WoodhouseSirJ.T(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Schedule:—

COLONEL NOLAN wished to draw attention to the schedule, which provided that only one penny was allowed for the soldier's breakfast. That was absurd, especially when they remembered that sugar was taxed now. The allowance ought to be threepence at least.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Do I understand the hon. Gentleman to move an Amendment on the schedule?

COLONEL NOLAN said he would sooner have no schedule at all, and he moved that these words be omitted.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Gentleman will look at Clause 3 he will see that it refers to the schedule. There must be a schedule to the Act.

Colonel NOLAN said he moved to leave out all after line 18 to end of the schedule.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from line 18 to the end of the schedule."—(*Colonel Nolan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

Mr. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) said licensed victuallers were only allowed 1s. 3½d. for a hot meal to soldiers billeted on them, and 4d. for lodging. Where no hot meal was served only 4d. was allowed for lodging, attendance, salt, pepper, and vinegar. That seemed unfair, apart from the great inconvenience which was caused to publicans by billeting soldiers upon them. It dislocated the whole of their domestic life, especially when servant boys and girls had to give up their beds to the soldiers. For the 1s. 3½d., for the hot meal, the publican had to provide 1¼ lb. meat, 1 lb. bread, ¼ lb. potatoes or other vegetables, vinegar, salt, pepper, and two pints of small beer, and that could only be supplied at a loss. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to offer some explanation with reference to the breakfasts, and why there was no reference to them in the Act of 1881.

Mr. BRODRICK said it was clear that the hon. Member was not aware that in 1891, as a result of complaints from the licensed victuallers, the whole question of billeting was reconsidered. At the same time it was decided that a simple breakfast, consisting of half a pound of bread and a cup of tea, should be provided for 1½d. The hon. Member was probably not aware that the State provided a soldier with bread and meat, and that he provided himself with the remainder; therefore only bread and meat was paid for by the State on billet. He did not think that the licensed victualler had much to complain of, and it was always held that the country had the right to call on him to provide billets.

Colonel NOLAN said he had not received a reply with reference to the breakfasts.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY said that a breakfast consisting of half a pound of bread and a cup of tea was introduced by the Act of 1891.

Mr. O'SHEE said that there was no mention whatever of breakfasts in the Act of 1881.

Mr. BRODRICK said the Act had been reprinted.

Mr O'SHEE said there should have been an amending Act.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the Act was reprinted in 1893, having been amended in 1891.

Colonel NOLAN said that if the Secretary of State for War would make the price of breakfasts 3d. he would not divide on the question.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the question had been considered over and over again, and there was no reason whatever for making further provision.

Mr. O'SHEE said that if the Act of 1881, which he had in his hand, were correctly printed his point was good. The Act could not be changed by merely reprinting it. There should have been an amending Act.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the Act of 1881 had been amended from time to time, and he should be glad to furnish the hon. Member with the Act as reprinted.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 131; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 137.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,Rt.Hon.G.W.(Leeds)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward

Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cranborne, Viscount
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(TrH'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Grant, Corrie
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'y)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanl'y
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
Helme, Norval Watson
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.)
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N.S.
Levy, Maurice
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. H. L. B (Cambs
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
More, Robt Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh
Morrison, James Archibald
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (Yorks, E. R.)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Doogan. P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Minch, Matthew
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
White, Patrick (Meath, North)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Colonel Nolan and Mr. O'Shee.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

MR. BRODRICK said he hoped the House would allow the Bill to be read a third time. It was necessary it should be passed during the week.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he thought the right hon. Gentleman was absolutely insatiable. He had obtained the Committee stage very easily.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow at Two of the clock.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Three of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 23rd April, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

Several Lords took the Oath.

SAT FIRST.

The Lord Inverclyde sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:

Bideford and Clovelly Railway (Abandonment) [H.L.]

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:

Paisley Gas Provisional Order.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:

Elland Gas [H.L.] (Petition for additional Provision).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

A petition of Messrs. Baker, Lees, and Co., of No. 54, Parliament Street, Westminster, parliamentary agents, praying for leave to present a petition of Watford Urban District Council, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being dispensed with in respect of the said petition.

FINCHLEY AND HENDON TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Presented; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

SMETHWICK CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 8th of March last discharged, and Bill committed.

CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 12th of March last discharged, and Bill committed.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GAS BILL [H.L.]

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 14th of March last discharged, and Bill committed.

WEST AND SOUTH LONDON JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

CITY AND NORTH-EAST SUBURBAN ELECTRIC RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order).

OMAGH GAS BILL [H.L.].

BRISTOL, CLIFTON, AND WEST OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BILL [H.L.].

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

ALFRETON GAS BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

SHIELDS BRIDGE BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a; an amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (CANADA DOCK WORKS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.]

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 18th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed.

PORTMADOC, BEDDGELERT, AND SOUTH SNOWDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; the orders made on the 11th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed for Monday next.

HARPENDEN DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 19th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL.

HENLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (GAS) BILL.

LONDON BRIDGE WIDENING BILL

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEND RAILWAY BILL

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (JUDICIAL RENTS).

Return for the months of July and August, 1900: Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PAWNBROKERS' RETURNS (IRELAND).

Returns from the City Marshal of Dublin, for the year ended 31st December, 1900: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

SOLICITORS BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend certain provisions of the Solicitors Acts, 1839 to 1894—Was presented by the Lord Alverstone; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday next. (No. 38.)

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD ALVERSTONE: My Lords, In asking the House to give this Bill a Second Reading, I shall detain your Lordships but a very short time. The subject has already been very fully discussed in your Lordships' House, and the Bill is, to all practical intents, the same which was before your Lordships' House last session. My object in introducing the Bill in its present form is twofold. I am sure your Lordships will appreciate and approve of the first—it is that I might from these benches say a few words of tribute to the great work which was done in connection with this subject by my distinguished predecessor the late Lord Russell of Killowen. By the courtesy of Lord Russell's son, there were handed over to me a mass of papers relating to the subject. Those papers had not been merely collected by Lord Russell, but had been perused and digested, and all the important and salient facts and arguments both for and against the Bill most carefully noted. I shall be only too pleased to place any of those documents at the disposal of noble Lords. I am quite satisfied that the two Bills introduced by the late Lord Russell were the consequence of his having paid the closest attention to the subject, and of having devoted to it hours and days of work. I should be truly sorry if all those labours of so great a man were lost, and if there was no result from the immense industry and great ability he brought to bear on the subject. My second reason for introducing the Bill in its present form is my desire to start, so to speak, from the point to which it was brought last year.

As the result of a very considerable amount of personal work, assisted as I have been by Lord Russell's labours, I have come to the distinct conclusion that the case for some such legislation as is foreshadowed in this Bill is overwhelming. I am satisfied that the evil of secret commissions does prevail and does undermine honest commercial transactions, and from no leading authority connected with any of the great commercial industries of this country have I received any objections that go to the root and principle of the measure. If any of your Lordships have a doubt as to the necessity for this legislation, I would suggest that you should read again the speech made on the Second Reading in 1899, by the late Lord Chief Justice, for I am satisfied that the facts he then brought before the House—facts which have never been answered or rebutted—are in themselves a conclusive case for the Bill. Since then the necessity for the Bill has been rendered even more apparent. Your Lordships will remember that an inquiry took place last year before a Committee of the House of Commons respecting Government contracts. One of the recommendations of that Committee was that the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act, 1899, should be extended to all Government contracts, and to all Government officials. That is one of the objects contemplated or, rather, covered by this Bill. Since this time last year, too, there have been some most remarkable disclosures respecting the extent to which secret commissions have prevailed among co-operative societies in the north of England —disclosures of a state of things which even those who most strongly advocated this Bill had not previously thought to exist. I should have been extremely glad if His Majesty's Government had seen their way to take the subject up, and if at any stage of the Bill the Government see their way to propose Amendments dealing with what is believed to be a most pressing evil, I should be only too glad to retire in favour of their proposals. But I have a strong conviction that legislation of the kind is necessary and that it is not possible that the subject should be allowed to drop.

Before sitting down I desire to mention only two matters, to which I think your Lordships may well give further consideration, and which have been pressed upon me by important bodies who, while in no way opposing the principle of the Bill, have called my attention to certain provisions which they think go too far. The one is, that it is proposed to make it an offence to solicit corrupt bribes, even although the solicitation may not have been successful. That is already the law, under the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act, 1899, with regard to municipal officers, and when you consider the reasons that led to the passing of that Act, and the results since the Act was passed, I think your Lordships will see that, properly safeguarded, solicitation ought to be an offence. Possibly some of your Lordships noticed a few weeks ago a gross case of attempted bribery by a municipal officer which would not have been touched but for the fact that solicitation was an offence. I think that we ought to consider the safeguards under which solicitation should be made a crime, but I think your Lordships will agree that it ought not to be allowed to escape altogether. The other matter is that it has been suggested, on behalf of the insurance companies, that the Bill as now framed, particularly clauses two, three, and four, interferes with the legitimate agency business carried on by commision. That certainly is not the object of those who promote the Bill. I have carefully considered the suggestions made to me. Some of them I will place as Amendments on the Paper, and I believe that the addition of a very few words altering the onus of proof will remove the greatest part of the objections of the insurance companies. I hope the great work of the late Lord Russell will ultimately result in an effective statute putting an end to an evil which affects hundreds of thousands of honest traders and is undermining honest business. It is from that point of view, and at the same time being anxious to consider any Amendment for perfecting the Bill, that I ask your Lordships to read the measure a second time.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Alverstone.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I suppose that no one will doubt the propriety of arriving at the goal which my noble and learned friend desires to reach, in order to put an end to the corrupt transactions which undoubtedly do form a very considerable part of a great many commercial transactions, very much to the injury of the honest trader, and resulting in a very undue tax upon persons who are made victims of this enforced commission. The difficulty entirely lies in the application of the proposal so that it shall only hit corrupt transactions and not the great variety of human transactions, which certainly are not within the meaning of the Bill, though they may nevertheless be within its wording. I do not deny that since the Bill was first introduced the labours of the Select Committee have resulted in very great improvements and in lessening very considerably the dangers that were applicable to the first draft of the Bill. Whether they have been completely successful in removing all the dangers I do not at present say. What my noble and learned friend has said in reference to Amendments which he proposes to introduce on the representations made to him, may, of course, remove some of the objections which occur to me. At present I can only say that it appears to me that the Bill is most useful, as certainly its design is most valuable, and I entirely support the view of my noble and learned friend that your Lordships should read it a second time.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday, the 7th of May next.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [H.L.].

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 23rd April, 1901.

The House met at Two of the clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

King's consent signified. Read the third time, and passed.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL. (BY ORDER.)

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS. (BY ORDER.)

Ordered, That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed to join with the Committee of the Lords on London Underground Railways as desired by their Lordships.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That Sir William Arrol, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Cawley, Sir Michael Foster, and Sir John Dickson-Poynder be Members of the Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 1) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (HAM) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

METROPOLITAN COMMON SCHEME (ORPINGTON) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. ARTHUR ELLIOT reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills, That the parties promoting the Dublin Equalisation of Rates Bill had stated that the evidence of John Mallon was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said John Mallon do attend the said Committee on Monday next, at Twelve of the clock.

Ordered, That John Mallon do attend the Committee on Group H of Private Bills on Monday next, at Twelve of the clock.

HORLEY DISTRICT GAS BILL, AND CRAWLEY GAS BILL, CONSOLIDATED INTO "THE HORLEY DISTRICT GAS BILL."

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the North British Railway Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

2. "That, in the case of the Barry Railway, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the West and South London Junction Railway Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the following Clause be inserted :—

> Nothing in this Act shall authorise the West and South London Junction Railway Company to enter upon, take, or use (except by agreement) any cellar or vault in or under any street belonging to or connected with any building, or the sub-soil under such cellar or vault, unless such cellar or vault, or the building with which it is connected, is described in the deposited books of reference.
>
> And also a Clause to the effect that they shall not take or use (except by agreement) not only the cellars or vaults belonging to or occupied by the memorialists, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., the Right Hon. the Lord Iveagh, K.P., the Hon. William Frederick Danvers Smith, M.P., but also the sub-soil under such cellars or vaults.
>
> That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the Winsford Urban District Gas, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

5. "That, in the case of the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

6. "That, in the case of the North British Railway Bill, Petition for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of the Petition of 'Sir James Sivewright' against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

7. "That, in the case of the Great Central Railway Bill, Petition for addi-

tional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to introduce their additional Provision, if the Committee on the Bill think fit."

Resolutions agreed to.

BARRY RAILWAY.

Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Alfred Thomas and Mr. David Thomas.

SHANNON WATER AND ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken before the Committee on the Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill, 1899, be referred to the Committee on Group H on the above-named Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Sheffield District Railway Company to raise additional capital by the creation and issue of debenture stock for the purposes of their undertaking." [Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords].

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Hereford, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Monmouthshire, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Bradford; and Aspatria; to lie upon the Table,

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Staines; Dorking; Weardale; Burton on Trent; Twrcelyn; Menai Bridge; and Norwich; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition of Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Carluke, against; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against, from Plymouth; and Selby; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Waverley; Brook; Varteg; Pwllbach; Poynton; Gwauncaegurwen; Treeton; Nunnery (No. 1); Penrhier and Woodfield; Park Lane; Cannock Chase; Chase Town; Brereton (No. 2); Ashton Moss; Bagworth; West Cannock (No. 1); Oakwell; Balgonie; Westfield; Lumphinnans; Halbeath and Kingseat; Lassodie; Windygates; Crossgates; Methilhill; West Wemyss; Rosebank; Kelty; Lochore; Donibristle; and Cardenden Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Cathcart, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against, from Rochester; Whitchurch; Berkhampstead; Reading (two); Shrewsbury; Derby; Osgoldcross; Nottingham; Westbury-on-Trym; Thornbury; Hawkesbury Upton; Chipping Sodbury; Morley; Oldland Common; Birmingham; Fishponds; Idle; Upper Hackney; Matlock Bridge; Matlock Town; Hartlepool; Kingswood; and Hythe; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Rotherham; Derby; London; Sheffield (two); Halifax (four); Rhayader; Swansea; Gorseion; (two) Llansamlet; Goole; Masham; Rothesay; Failsworth; Hallifield; Plaistow; Stanwix; and Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL

Petitions in favour, from Sheffield; Epsom; Halifax; and Queensbury; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Lochmaben; Annan; Barry; Thornliebank (five); Cathcart; Lonmay; Rathen; Kinning Park; Lesmahagow; Dunfermline; Logie Port; and Swinton; to lie upon the Table

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ALIENS

Address for "Return showing the names of all Aliens to whom Certificates of Naturalisation have been issued, and who have taken the oath of allegiance, between the 1st day of January, 1900, and the 31st day of December, 1900, giving the country and place of residence of the person naturalised, and including information as to any Aliens who have during the same period obtained Acts of Naturalisation from the Legislature (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 113, of Session 1 of 1900)."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

IMPRISONMENT OF A MEMBER—MR. PATRICK ALOYSIUS M'HUGH.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House that he had received the following letter from the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland relating to the imprisonment of Mr. Patrick Aloysius M'Hugh, a Member of this House:—

In the High Court of Justice in Ireland,
King's Bench Division,
Four Courts, Dublin,
22nd April, 1901

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Patrick Aloysius M'Hugh, Member of Parliament for North Leitrim, having been prosecuted by the Right Honourable the Attorney General for Ireland, by ex officio information, for publishing in his newspaper the Sligo Champion certain seditious libels charged as calculated to prejudice and affect the administration of Justice, and having been found guilty was this day sentenced by me to six calendar months imprisonment as a first-class misdemeanant for such offence, and committed to Kilmainham Prison accordingly.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant
O'Brien,
Lord Chief Justice of Ireland
To the Right Honourable
The Speaker of the House of Commons

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I be allowed to ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether, as a matter of privilege, it will be competent for me to draw the attention of the House to the circumstances of the conviction.

Mr. SPEAKER: No; not in the case of a criminal conviction.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Under those circumstances I will presently ask the First Lord of the Treasury to put the Attorney General for Ireland's salary down for discussion on an early date.

Mr. SPEAKER: Notice of that question must be given in the ordinary way.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF THE CHARTERED COMPANY,

Mr. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the assets of the late Transvaal Government which he is advised do not pass to His Majesty's Government, for example, the claim against the Chartered Company in respect of the Jameson Raid, will be made available to meet *pro tanto* the just and lawful liabilities of the late Transvaal Government incurred before the outbreak of hostilities; and how His Majesty's Government propose to deal with the proportion of these liabilities which may not be met out of such assets.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have already pointed out that such assets cannot be made available. With regard to the just and lawful liabilities of the late Transvaal Government, in so far as they are just and legal liabilities against his Majesty's Government, they will be recognised to the extent to which they can be fulfilled out of the revenue of the Transvaal.

MR. BLACK: Does the answer to the first paragraph apply equally to such assets as arrears of taxation and arrears of royalties?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That point does not arise out of the question.

MR. MERRIMAN'S LETTER OF 14TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Hon. J. X. Merriman, who has been a Cabinet Minister in several Governments at the Cape, from his place in the Legislative Assembly of Cape Colony moved on 17th September for information as to the methods by which his private letter, dated 14th November, 1899, came into the hands of the British authorities and was published in a Parliamentary Paper issued by the Colonial Office on 23rd August, and that Sir Gordon Sprigg, the Prime Minister of Cape Colony, promised a post office inquiry; and what was the result of that inquiry.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The manner in which the letter came into the hands of Sir Alfred Milner is described as follows in a Parliamentary Paper presented to the Cape Parliament—

> "All that the Governor knows about the matter is that this letter fell into the hands of the military authorities after the second occupation of Dordrecht, and was sent to him in the same way as other correspondence captured from the enemy. . . . The idea that the letter was intercepted in the post is entirely erroneous."

This statement was made at a later date than the promise of a post office inquiry, and the information it contains appears to have rendered that inquiry unnecessary.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Did the right hon. Gentleman himself suggest to Sir Gordon Sprigg that it should be merely a post office inquiry?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Certainly not.

COST OF THE WAR.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the approximate war cost of £1,500,000 per week is in addition to the ordinary expenditure on the military services.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Yes, Sir.

LORD ROBERTS'S TELEGRAMS.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there would be any and if so what objection to laying upon the Table of the House of Commons a reprint of the various telegrams, not primarily designed for publication, which Lord Roberts sent to the late Secretary of State for War in the course of the campaign, having regard to the difficulty incidental to the comprehension of the despatches without the aid of the telegrams.

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot undertake to publish telegrams which have passed, nor am I aware of any telegrams despatched by Lord Roberts to the late Secretary of State for War, not primarily designed for publication, which would facilitate the comprehension of despatches as suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Lord Roberts's despatch about Paardeberg consists of twelve lines only?

[No answer was given.]

MEAT CONTRACTS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown was taken with reference to the action of the South African Cold Storage Company in supplying troops in the field with 2,250,000 lb. of frozen meat instead of freshly-killed meat, under the terms of the contract entered into on the 27th October, 1899.

I beg also to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the contract with the South African Cold Storage Company, dated the 27th October, 1900, was entered into in this country or in South Africa.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The reply to the first question is in the negative. The reply to the second is that the contract was made in South Africa.

AID FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that Private S. Groves, 5,046, 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who contracted enteric at Lombard Kopt and was discharged from Netley in November last as unfit for further service, has up to the present been in receipt of only 1s. per day, although still unable to walk without the aid of a stick and altogether incapacitated for employment, and if there is any special reason in this case why the 2s. 6d. per day to which he is entitled on the authority of the Paymaster-General has not been paid.

LORD STANLEY: The man is reported by the medical authorities as partially able to earn a livelihood. At the time of his discharge 1s. a day was the maximum rate provided by the Royal Warrant, but under a new regulation he is now eligible for a rate of 1s. 6d. His case is one of a large number which are being considered as rapidly as possible.

RETURN OF TROOPS.

MR. RUTHERFORD (Lancashire, Darwen): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can hold out any hopes of immediately relieving the Militia regiments now serving and who have been serving in South Africa for more than twelve months.

MR. BRODRICK: In view of the arrival of four fresh battalions of Militia who volunteered for service in South Africa, Lord Kitchener has intimated to us that he is sending home 6th Battalion Warwickshire, 4th Battalion Derbyshire, 3rd Battalion Durham Light Infantry, which were the first three battalions to embark, and the 4th Battalion Scottish Rifles, which is relieved by the 3rd Battalion of the same regiment.

MR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can hold out any hopes of immediately relieving the different companies of the Imperial Yeomanry now serving and who have been serving in South Africa for more than twelve months.

LORD STANLEY: I am not at present in a position to state when the Imperial Yeomanry companies can be relieved. Special consideration has been shown in cases of hardship reported by commanding officers.

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.

MR SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that non-commissioned officers and men punished for offences and dissatisfied with the award of the commanding officer are entitled to demand trial by court-martial, whereas officers aggrieved by the action of the authorities, taken after the consideration of the proceedings of a court of inquiry, are not entitled to trial by court-martial if they should desire it; and whether, having regard to the fact that courts of inquiry can be and are held in the absence of the accused, who are at times not informed of the evidence brought before them or of the gravamen of the charge of which they have been found guilty and condemned, the privilege of open trial by court-martial will be accorded to officers who demand it.

MR. BRODRICK: I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to a very similar question put by my hon. friend the Member for Chester on the 28th February.†

LINKED BATTALIONS.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether in the Government scheme of reorganisation the system of linked battalions, one battalion in each regiment being liable to be sent abroad, will be adhered to.

MR. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir, so far as two-battalion regiments are concerned.

MR. BLACK was understood to ask if the answer applied to army corps designed for purely home defence.

MR. BRODRICK: That would not affect the linked battalions.

ARMY REORGANISATION—HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in the Government scheme of army reorganisation, the Highland regiments will all be attached to the army corps having its headquarters in Edinburgh.

MR. BRODRICK: No pledge can be given, but the desirability of quartering Scotch regiments in Scotland will not be lost sight of.

CHINA—COMMAND OF ALLIED FORCES—CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will he state when the Correspondence embodying the negotiations between Great Britain and the Powers with reference to the affairs of the Generalissimo of the Allied forces in China will be published; and whether he can state the reasons on which the objections of the Powers to an English Officer as Generalissimo were based.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): Correspondence on this subject will be found in China No. 1, 1901, pages 60 to 74. No question of a British Commander-in-Chief was ever brought forward.

FIGHTING IN CENTRAL ARABIA.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that a battle has been fought between the followers of Mubarek, the Sheikh of Koweit, and Ibu Raschid, the original ruler of Nejd, in Central Arabia, and that about 5,000 men were killed; and can he state whether Ibu Raschid has recovered his kingdom of Nejd; and whether he has any information regarding the fate of Mubarek.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: According to the information which has reached His Majesty's Government, a fight is reported to have taken place on the 17th of March last between the forces of Mubarek, the Sheik of Koweit, and those of Ibu Raschid, the Ameer of Nejd. The losses are said to have been heavy on both sides, but no details have transpired. Mubarek, who is now at Koweit, is said to have been defeated. The Ameer of Nejd is at Boreyda, a place in Nejd near which the battle was fought.

KHORAT RAILWAY CONTRACT.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if compensation has been obtained from the Siamese Government for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., who were forcibly ejected in August, 1896, by that Government from their contract known as the Khorat Railway Contract; and if he will state the total amount obtained and also the amount offered in full settlement by the Siamese Government and refused by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The contractor for the Bangkok-Khorat Railway was Mr. G. Murray Campbell, and the dispute between him and the Siamese Government in regard to the execution and cancellation of the contract was referred to the arbitration of Sir Edward Clarke, whose decision was announced on the 28th ultimo. I will inquire whether there is any objection to publishing the terms of the award. We have no information of any previous offer being made by the Siamese Government and refused by the contractor.

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† See *Debates*, Vol. xc., page 27.

THE NEW SUGAR DUTY

Mr. GODDARD (Ipswich): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state how his new taxation would apply in the case of a merchant who has sold to a brewer sugar for delivery weekly during 1901, and can he state who will have to pay the duty; and how will his proposed new duty apply in the case of a merchant who has sold to a brewers' sugar maker raw sugar for forward delivery; will the brewers' sugar maker be obliged to accept delivery notwithstanding the fact that raw sugar will no longer be available for brewers' use, owing to the duty which puts it at a disadvantage in comparison with malt and flaked maize.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): In the case referred to in paragraph one the merchant who imports the sugar will pay the duty, but will be entitled to increase his contract price with the brewer by the amount of the duty. The imposition of the duty will not entitle the brewers' sugar maker to break his contract. I cannot admit the assumption that the result of the duty will be to render raw sugar no longer available for brewing.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether with a view to avoid the further dislocation of many trades now occasioned by the Customs delaying delivery of consignments pending analysis for duty purposes, he will consider the possibility of accepting declarations by the producers in the country of origin as to the amount of added sugar, subject to occasional checking by the Customs Laboratory.

I beg also to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that the Customs are assessing and collecting duty on condensed milk upon the assumption that the full bulk weight comprises sugar, whereas the quantity contained is far less than half the amount charged, and whether he will take immediate action to prevent the continuance of this action.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: So far as the Customs is concerned, no delay is taking place in the delivery of imported articles subject to the new sugar duties. In regard to the sugar not cleared at the highest rate, the foreign certificate of polarisation is accepted, subject to no question arising as to authenticity. In regard to articles partly composed of sugar, I do not think such declarations could be accepted; duty is at present being charged, in accordance with the law, on their full weight—among them is condensed milk. But samples of such articles are being taken in order that the amount of duty on them may in such a case be ultimately adjusted as far as may be possible with reference to the amount of sugar, under powers which will be inserted in the Finance Bill.

Mr. KEARLEY: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman make it a little more clear?

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: We have to act under the Customs Tariff Act, 1876. We cannot fix the duty until the amount of sugar in the articles has been ascertained. Samples are now being taken, and we shall soon be in a position to come to a decision.

Mr. KEARLEY: Am I to understand that every article which comes into the country will be charged the full sugar duty on its total bulk?

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: When the matter has been properly adjusted, any over duty will be returned. We are obliged, in accordance with the law, to charge articles on their full weight.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is it in accordance with the law? Does the Act of 1876 not prescribe that as to an article containing spirit the duty shall be levied on the spirit? Has the right hon. Gentleman seen the schedule of the Act ?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH : Yes, Sir.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES : Shall I read it for him ?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH : On this point I think I know as much as the hon. Member. The schedule of the Act of 1876 has two provisions—one relating to spirit and one relating to all other articles. The duty with regard to spirit is charged on the amount of spirit, and the duty on all other articles is charged on the weight. I assure the hon. Member that the delay will not be as great as he imagines.

MR. KEARLEY : May I ask——

*MR. SPEAKER : Order, order ! This matter cannot be discussed in the form of questions across the floor of the House.

THE NEW COAL DUTY—AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING ACT.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the objections to the proposed duty on exported coal, the Government will withdraw that proposal in favour of an equivalent gain to the Exchequer by the non-renewal of the Agricultural Land Rating Act.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH : No, Sir.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the operation of the Customs Order, G. O. 32, 1901, 18th instant, will in effect injure the business of steamers engaged in bringing into port catches from the fishing fleet, by causing delay in entering and clearing on account of shipping two or three tons of bunker coal ; and whether, having regard to the element of time being of importance in such transactions, he will cause the matter to be investigated with a view to ascertaining whether arrangements should be made to enable entry omnibus forms to be given, say, weekly or fortnightly.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH : No delay will be caused to steam fishing vessels on entering the fishing ports in connection with the duty on coal, and no delay need occur on their departure, inasmuch as the entry for shipment of such bunker coal as they require may be passed in anticipation. There will be no objection to the entries being passed weekly or fortnightly, as may be most convenient, and steps will be taken for giving effect to this.

EXPORT STATISTICS.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk) : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state the total weight of all goods exported from the United Kingdom in 1900.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH : I am afraid that the information for which the hon. Member asks cannot be given.

FOOD ADULTERATION PROSECUTIONS.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that a person charged with selling articles of food in contravention of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts must be informed o the exact nature of his alleged offence, and of the alleged adulteration, as stated in the analyst's certificates, while persons charged with selling diseased meat under the Public Health Act, 1875, are not informed of the exact nature of the disease, but are vaguely charged with selling meat which is diseased or unsound or unfit for food ; and, as under these circumstances the defendant cannot prepare his defence, whether he will take steps to oblige sanitary authorities to state the exact nature of all such charges, and medical officers of health to furnish to the person whose meat is seized a certificate of the exact nature of the disease affecting the meat seized.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) : I am aware of the different requirements of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and of the Public Health Act with regard to the matters referred to. I may point out that the adulteration of food and drugs can ordinarily be discovered only by the application of chemical tests. This is not so as regards meat which is diseased or unsound or unfit for food. The two classes of cases do not therefore seem to be parallel. I cannot say I think there is any sufficient ground for proposing such a change in the law as that suggested in the question.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the local Government Board whether he will grant a Return showing how many medical officers of health there are in England and Wales, and distinguishing those part of whose salary is paid by Parliament, and showing how many have diplomas in public health.

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not think it necessary that there should be a Parliamentary Return on this subject, but I shall be happy to give the hon. Member the information which he desires. It will take some little time to prepare, but I hope to be able to send it to him in the course of a week or ten days.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL'S TOTTENHAM HOUSING SCHEME.

MR. JOSEPH HOWARD (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been directed to the proposed scheme of the London County Council for the erection of workmen's cottages on a site in Tottenham for the purpose of housing about 35,000 persons, at a cost of £1,500,000; and whether, as this will necessitate an outlay for the erection of new board schools, and also an expenditure for sewerage and other necessary works, any and what relief can be afforded out of public funds to the ratepayers of the district; and what steps should be taken for this purpose.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am aware of the proposed scheme. Assistance of the kind referred to in the second paragraph of the question could not be given, but I may point out that the erection of dwelling houses on vacant land largely increases the rateable value of a district, and from investigations which I have caused to be made elsewhere, I do not think it should be assumed that the result of the scheme would necessarily be to increase the burdens on the ratepayers.

MR. JOSEPH HOWARD: Will the local authorities be given an extension of borrowing powers?

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not quite sure I follow the hon. Member. Does he mean an extension of the time for repayment of the loan they may have to contract in order to carry out the works? Of course any such application will be considered, but I do not think there are any special grounds in this case for differentiating it from similar cases.

PENRHYN QUARRY DISPUTE.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any endeavour has been made by the Board of Trade to settle the Penrhyn Quarry dispute, and whether any steps will be taken to bring about an amicable settlement.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Board of Trade have received no application from the parties to take any action with reference to the Penrhyn Quarry dispute, and they have no reason to believe that such action would lead to any useful result.

MR. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in accordance with the powers conferred upon him by Section 2, Sub-section (a), of the Conciliation Act, 1896, he has inquired into the causes and circumstances of the dispute existing between Lord Penrhyn and his workmen; and, if so, will he present a Report to the House.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is not the practice of the Board of Trade to institute a formal inquiry with regard to a dispute unless they consider that such an inquiry is likely to promote a settlement. In the dispute referred to in the question they have no reason to think that this is the case.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid): Would it not conduce to a settlement if the right hon. Gentleman were to send some one down to ascertain the real facts ?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have paid close attention to the progress of the dispute, and I do not think any intervention on the part of the Board of Trade, at any rate at present, would be effectual.

BELFAST ORDERS FOR AMERICAN STEEL.

MR. FIELD : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Belfast, have placed an order to the value of £156,000 sterling with Messrs. Carnegie, Pittsburgh, from the importation of which manufactured steel under our free import system no revenue will be derived ; and whether he can state how much duty would be levied by the American Government upon a similar order placed in Great Britain.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR : No, Sir, I have no information as to the dealings of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, and in the absence of particulars of the nature of the goods referred to in the question it is impossible for me to make any statement with regard to the duty leviable thereon by any foreign country.

LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION ON LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

MR. BELL : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has yet received the report of the inspecting officer who held the inquiry into the cause of the explosion of locomotive 676 on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, and if so, when will it be published.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR : No, Sir, and the necessity of making some chemical inquiries will probably delay the preparation of the report.

INSTRUCTION IN FORESTRY.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he can state what provision has been made by the Government for instruction in forestry in the United Kingdom.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) : In England provision is made for instruction in forestry at the Durham College of Science, at the South-Eastern Agricultural College at Wye, at the Yorkshire College at Leeds, and by the Board of Agricultural Studies at Cambridge University, to all of which institutions grants are made by the Board of Agriculture. Lectures in forestry are also given at the colleges at Cirencester and Downton and other institutions not in receipt of grants from the Department. Examinations in forestry are conducted by the Surveyors' Institution. Perhaps the hon. Member would be so good as to address inquiries with regard to the analogous grants in Scotland to my right hon. friend the Lord Advocate, and with regard to instruction in forestry in Ireland to my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary.

BRUCE GROVE POST OFFICE—PROVISION OF CHANGE.

MR. LAMBERT : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the refusal to supply postal orders at Bruce Grove Sub-Post Office, when a £5 and a £10 Bank of England note were offered in payment, on the ground that there was not sufficient change in the office ; whether he has satisfied himself that this is the case ; and, if so, what means are being taken to prevent inconvenience to the public by such offices having insufficient money to cash postal orders when presented if they exceed in the aggregate £10, or to enable the public to secure postal orders or money orders when bank notes are tendered.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) : Yes, Sir. A representation was received at the post office, dated the 6th instant, to the effect that an application had been made on the 4th instant at the Bruce Grove Post Office for a postal order for five shillings and for three stamps, and a Bank of England note for £10 tendered in payment ; and that the sub-postmistress had been unable to change the note. It appeared on inquiry that the sub-postmistress could not give change of a £10 note at the time without inconvenience and risk of leaving herself without sufficient cash for other customers, and she asked the person who tendered the note for something smaller. On a recent occasion change for a £5 note had to be refused under similar circumstances. There was nothing irregular in the matter, so far as the sub-postmistress is concerned, as, according to the rules of the Department, postmasters are not bound to give change, although they may do so when no inconvenience is likely to be caused. The circumstances were all fully explained to the person who wrote to complain.

POSTAL ACCOMMODATION AT THORPE HESLEY.

MR. HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that the post office at Thorpe Hesley has been closed since 15th April, to the inconvenience of a population of about 3,000, who are compelled to walk nearly two miles in order to obtain stamps or postal orders; and if he can state what steps are intended to be taken to provide proper postal facilities for the place.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The closing of the post office at Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham, is due to the fact that the late sub-postmaster has resigned his appointment, and that no eligible candidate for the sub-postmastership has as yet come forward. All possible efforts shall be made to avoid inconvenience to the public and to fill the appointment as soon as possible.

IRELAND—MORTALITY AMONGST CALVES.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that much mortality has taken place for some time past among calves in Ireland, which has caused losses to the farming classes in Ireland, and whether he can recommend any remedy.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The Department of Agriculture is now investigating the causes of the serious mortality amongst calves, and for this purpose has secured the services of the eminent bacteriologist, Professor Nocard. The principal of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland will assist him in his researches.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Will Irish farmers be invited to give evidence in the course of the investigation?

MR. WYNDHAM: That I cannot say.

MR. DILLON: I will put down a question.

MR. DALY: Will a copy of the Report, when presented, be furnished to the Irish county and district councils?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am quite alive to the importance of this question, and will do my best to communicate the results of the investigation to all concerned.

GRAZING LAND TENANCIES.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to state the decision arrived at by the Congested Districts Board as to the status of eleven months tenants in the occupation of grazing lands about to be purchased by the Board.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board purchases directly from the owner of estates in the congested districts, and consequently steps into the position of a landlord. This introduces no modification into the status of tenants on estates so purchased.

LAND PURCHASE IN CO. WEXFORD.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what are the intentions of the Government with regard to land purchase in the county of Wexford, in view of the fact that in that county a large number of tenants have arranged to purchase their holdings, but that the purchase of these holdings cannot be proceeded with owing to lack of funds.

Mr. WYNDHAM: In view of the fact that time will not, in all probability, admit of any comprehensive land legislation during the present session, the Government has prepared an interim Bill to deal with the difficulty in county Wexford and with similar difficulties which may arise elsewhere. Such a Bill cannot, however, be introduced and passed unless some assurance be given that it will be discussed as an interim measure to meet an emergency.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: When will the Bill be printed and circulated so that we may see its provisions?

Mr. WYNDHAM: If I can receive any assurance—I do not wish to press it too far—there will be no objection to circulate it on an early day.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): The right hon. Gentleman must see that we cannot give any assurance about a Bill which we have not seen. Is the Chief Secretary's statement to be taken as a declaration of the Government's abandonment of the promise contained in the King's Speech to deal with the question of voluntary land purchase?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. It is premature to make any statement as to the business of the House.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: It has just been made.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I asked the Chief Secretary, arising out of his answer to the question on the Paper, whether the Government abandon their promise to introduce a Voluntary Land Purchase Bill.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I made no declaration. I merely alluded to a possibility.

LAND DISTURBANCES IN COUNTY LONGFORD.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any report has been received from the Edgworthstown Police Station as to a disturbance created in the townland of Lisnanagh, county Longford, by the two emergency men guarding the evicted farms there; is he aware that one of them bombarded the house for several hours with stones, and was only prevented from committing further excesses by the arrival of the police; and will any steps be taken to bring these disturbers of the public peace to justice for such conduct.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member has been misinformed. The occurrences referred to in the first and second paragraphs did not take place.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that I have not been misinformed, but he has by his subordinates.

LONGFORD GUARDIANS' SURCHARGE.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Local Government Board have issued a sealed order confirming a surcharge of 8s. upon three members of the Longford Board of Guardians, the price of a coffin granted in which to inter the remains of a poor man who had died near Ardagh; whether, seeing that this poor man was on outdoor relief and had no friends or relatives to see to the interment of his remains, he can explain on what grounds the auditor made the surcharge; and did he know that the man was virtually a pauper, and as such entitled to be buried at the expense of the union; and, will he call his attention to the fact that no surcharge should have been made in such a case.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The provisions of Article 4 (4) of the Union Accounts Order were not complied with, and in the evidence adduced the auditor could not find that the expense was incurred in the burial of the deceased. I am making further inquiries. It is not a very large matter.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: But there is a principle involved.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE GRANARD UNION.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the recent inquiry into representations under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts in Granard Union two evicted tenants named John Farrell and John Heslin, both of Lisnanagh, county Longford, were refused cottages mainly because they were evicted tenants; whether he is aware that there is a scarcity of labourers in the portion of the county in which they applied, and that for nearly seven miles the country round Lisnanagh is a grazing plain on which there are but few dwellings; and will he call for an explanation from the inspector of his reasons for advising the rejection of these men's representations.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The inspector who held the inquiry reported that three cottages had already been erected under the Labourers' Acts in the townland of Lisnanagh, and that there were also in the locality six or seven other houses, two of which were unoccupied and fit for human habitation. Under these circumstances there was no case for erecting these cottages.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: Did the inspector tell the right hon. Gentleman that the two houses in question were houses from which men had been evicted?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I do not think that is material to the question.

BUTLER ESTATE, CO. GALWAY.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the reasons for the delay in the sale of the Butler estate in county Galway.

Mr. WYNDHAM: A request for an inspection of this estate under the 40th section of the Act of 1896 was received by the Land Commissioners in January last, and an assistant commissioner was deputed for the purpose of carrying out the inspection. I have drawn the attention of the Land Commission to the matter.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: How many years have these negotiations been going on?

Mr. WYNDHAM: We have no knowledge of the negotiations until the matter comes before the Land Commission and an agreement has been arrived at.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' (IRELAND) SUPERANNUATION.

Mr. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Irish Poor Law Officers' Association has made itself responsible for a statement to the effect that the passage into law of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation (Ireland) Bill would mean a saving to local rates, and that solely on the strength of this representation certain boards of guardians are giving sanction to the Bill; whether the Government will obtain a report from a competent actuary as to the probable effect of the Bill on local rates, having regard to the experience of the working of the English Act of 1896, and to the fact that the Bill proposes to include those giving only a portion of time to the service; and whether the information so obtained will be placed in the hands of Members before the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Bill is down for Second Reading on Friday, 3rd May. The Government will be prepared to accept the Second Reading on the understanding that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, with a view to ascertaining the ultimate actuarial effect of the measure on local rates. For this purpose it is proposed to employ a competent actuary.

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that before the English Bill became law the cost was £6,200 annually, whereas it is now £74,000?

Mr. MURNAGHAN: Does not the right hon. Gentleman consider it his duty as the representative of the Irish Government in this House to place in the hands of hon. Members a statement as to the probable effect of this Bill on the rates of Ireland?

Mr. WYNDHAM: Yes, and I propose to accomplish that object by placing the information at the disposal of the Select Committee.

MR. MURNAGHAN: But we want it before the Second Reading.

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot give it before the Second Reading, but if hon. Members will allow the Bill to be read a second time—

MR. DILLON: Certainly not.

MR. MURNAGHAN: This is a matter of the utmost importance.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. DALY: Considering the importance of this measure to the ratepayers of Ireland——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to preface a question by arguments and comments.

MR. DALY: Cannot we have the information before the Second Reading?

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has twice answered that question.

MR. MURNAGHAN: The right hon. Gentleman has stated that the Government are prepared to take the time of the House to promote the interests of a certain organisation in Ireland. Why will he not also take time for necessary legislation?

*MR. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. Member to resume his seat.

FRENCHPARK WATERWORKS.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what grounds the Local Government Board propose, in opposition to the wishes of the Rural District Council, to make a union charge of the cost of the Frenchpark Waterworks, which will serve only a few hundred people.

MR. WYNDHAM: The action of the Board in this matter has been in accordance with their general policy as to chargeability of rural sanitary expenses since May, 1899. The area of charge in this case has not yet been fixed. The district council wish to fix an area of so limited an extent that the annual charge thereon in respect of the loan would be about 10d. in the £, whereas if the dispensary district were adopted it would be only 4d., and if the whole rural district were adopted it would be about ·09d. This was fully explained in a letter addressed to the council on the 1st instant.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON PETTY SESSIONS CLERK.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any objection has been received to the election of Mr. Devenish by a majority of one vote as clerk of Carrick-on-Shannon Petty Sessions district on the 12th instant; whether he is aware that Mr. Devenish resides in the county Roscommon, and is already a petty sessions clerk in that county; and whether, as he has no residence in the county Leitrim, his appointment under these circumstances to an important centre like the county town of Leitrim will be sanctioned by the Lord Lieutenant.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first and second paragraphs is in the affirmative. Mr. Devenish resides four miles from Carrick-on-Shannon. A petty sessions clerk is not required to reside in the district of which he is clerk. The appointment of Mr. Devenish has been sanctioned by the Lord Lieutenant.

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE PURCHASE—GERMAN STATE RAILWAYS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the German State railways realised a profit of £23,200,000 last year; and whether he will consider the advisability of introducing the system of State ownership in Ireland, with a view to decrease the burden of taxation, and to increase transit facilities by cheaper rates for goods and passengers.

MR. WYNDHAM: This question is similar to one put by the hon. Member and answered by me on Friday last.* As soon as I obtain information on the first paragraph I will communicate with the hon. Member.

ROAD LABOUR IN IRELAND.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, before laying upon the Table of the House the draft Provisional Order regarding direct labour, he will communicate to the Irish Members the decision of the Government as to the Amendments suggested by them and forwarded to him.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir; but I must not exclude from myself the right to insert or object to any amendment of the provisions of the Bill on the Committee stage.

DAVID FINLAY'S ESTATE, CO. CAVAN.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he state on what date the tenants on the estate of the late David Finlay and others, situate in the county of Cavan, signed agreements to purchase their holdings through the Irish Land Commission; on what date were these agreements lodged with the Irish Land Commission; and what were the reasons that these agreements had not been lodged at an earlier date.

MR. WYNDHAM: No agreements have been lodged between the landlord and tenants of this estate, and consequently I have no cognisance of any proceedings in respect of its sale.

THE KING'S ACCESSION—PROCLAMATION AT LIMERICK.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the proclamation of King Edward the Seventh as King the high sheriff for the county of Limerick requisitioned the Dublin Castle authorities for a guard of honour composed of a half battery of artillery, a half squadron of cavalry, and a half battalion of infantry for the proclamation in the towns of Bruff, Rathkeale, and Newcastle; whether the Castle authorities refused on the grounds that they could furnish no expenses unless the high sheriff would in person defray expenses from his own private purse; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence connected therewith.

MR. WYNDHAM: The high sheriff, in February last, communicated to the Executive Government a copy of a correspondence that had passed between him and the military authorities, who felt unable to comply with his requisition for troops for the purpose mentioned. The high sheriff was informed that the matter was not one calling for the intervention of the Executive. The answer to the last paragraph is in the negative.

CULLOVILLE (IRELAND) POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will inquire into the inconvenience caused to the people of Culloville by not having a Sunday delivery of letters, as is the case in the surrounding post office districts; and whether he will arrange a collection of letters for this district each evening later than that now existing, and also erect a pillar box at Culloville.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has caused inquiry to be instituted, and the result shall be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

MR. DALY: How soon? The people of this district are greatly inconvenienced.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot say, but the result shall be communicated as soon as the Postmaster General has had time to form an opinion on the inquiry.

CORK POST OFFICE REVISION.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can explain why, although the revision of the Cork Post Office staff took place on the 4th July, 1899, under which the clerks' class was increased with the authority of the Treasury given on that date, the sorting clerks and telegraphists promoted on the 16th February, 1900, only received the increased pay from the latter date notwithstanding that in the case of the superintendent of telegraphs and the female supervising officer at Cork the increased pay was allowed from the date of the Treasury letter; and seeing that in the case of the revision of the Dublin telegraph staff the promoted officers' promotions were eventually antedated to the date of the Treasury sanction, and that this is the practice at large offices, whether it will now be arranged that the officers in Cork are paid from that date.

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* See page 789.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In regard to the superintendent for telegraph duty, the revision merely authorised an improvement in his scale of salary, and as regards the woman supervisor the revision merely converted the assistant supervisorship into a supervisorship, so in these two cases the revision could be carried out at once. As regards the promotions to new appointments arising from the revision considerable difficulties were experienced in making the selections, and it was not until the 16th of February that the recommendations received the Postmaster General's approval. It is the practice to date all promotions from the day on which they receive the Postmaster General's approval unless there are any special circumstances in the case which justify a different course, and the Postmaster General sees no reason to depart from the practice in this case.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education what steps, if any, it is proposed to take to place beyond challenge as to legality the right of school boards to assist the maintenance out of the school board rates of schools recognised under the Higher Elementary Minute now incorporated in the Education Code for 1901.

***The VICE-PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION** (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): I have nothing to add to the statement I made a day or two ago, that the Board of Education are advised that higher elementary schools under the conditions of the Code may be maintained by school boards out of the School Fund.

REX v. COCKERTON.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the event of the School Board proceeding no further with the appeal against the Cockerton judgment, the Government will undertake to deal with the matter in the present session.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I cannot give any pledges at the present time with regard to the legislation of the session, as I informed the hon. Gentleman a few days ago.

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state the present intentions of the Government with regard to repealing that portion of the Royal Accession Declaration which describes Roman Catholic beliefs as idolatrous.

***Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON** (Belfast, S.): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers that question, may I ask him if the Royal declaration by which King Edward VII. sits upon the Throne is not part of the Bill of Rights and of the Act of Settlement?

***Mr. SPEAKER**: Order, order! That is a comment, and not a question.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that the present position of the matter is as follows:—There was originally a proposal in the House of Lords to appoint a Committee to investigate the terms of the Oath. It appeared to me that if the subject was to be investigated it had better be by a Joint Committee, and I threw that suggestion out in the House. The Opposition have intimated that they do not propose to serve on the Committee, and therefore that proposal falls through. I presume that the Committee appointed by the House of Lords will investigate the subject on their own account, as was originally proposed.

SATURDAY SITTINGS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can arrange to have the House meet on Saturdays for Government business, with a view to preserve the rights of private Members on Tuesday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; I cannot imagine that any arrangement for Saturday sittings would meet with the approval of hon. Members.

DECIMAL SYSTEM OF COINAGE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government propose to take the necessary steps to substitute the decimal system of coinage for the system at present in use.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON IRISH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is yet in a position to name the members of the Royal Commission on Irish University Education and to give the terms of reference.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, we are not in a position as yet to state the names of the Members of this Commission. It will be in the recollection of the hon. Gentleman that an appeal was made to us not to settle finally either the members of the Commission or the terms of reference until the debate which took place last night had been concluded. We hope to proceed very rapidly now with the business of appointing the members of the Commission, and finally settling the terms of reference.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LOCAL TAXATION.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state when the Royal Commission on Local Taxation is expected to report; and whether that Report will be in the hands of Members before the Agricultural Rating Bill is renewed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that no date can yet be fixed, but every effort is being made to press on the Report. It is impossible to give the pledge asked for in the second paragraph.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will postpone the discussion on the Report of the coal tax resolution until next week. On Thursday there is to be a meeting of the Federation of Miners from all parts of the kingdom. The right hon. Gentleman will see that the miners are not able at once to place their views before him as the coalowners and merchants can do; and yet it is highly desirable that they should have an opportunity of placing their objections to the tax before the Government. That cannot be done if the Report is taken on Thursday.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Of course I shall be very happy to receive and consider any views which the miners may present to me on this subject. I may say that I have already undertaken to receive deputations from other interests affected; and of course I shall consider anything which may be said. But I confess I do not quite see why the Report of the resolution should be postponed. The invariable course has been —and both I and the right hon. Gentleman remember the opposed Budget of 1885—to allow the Report of the resolution to be adopted by the House and to be embodied in the Finance Bill, before the House is really asked to express a decision on the subject. There will be ample time before the Second Reading of the Finance Bill for any representations to be made and considered; and therefore I hope I shall not be pressed to postpone the Report of the resolution, which is treated invariably as a formal stage binding the House to nothing. The postponement would make a very inconvenient delay in the introduction of the Bill.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: It is quite true that there have been occasions on which this resolution has been passed without discussion; but that has not been the usual course. There are very special reasons in this case why the right hon. Gentleman should have an opportunity of knowing the feelings of the miners on this subject, and that there should be a full discussion on the resolution. That being so, I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be able to make arrangements for postponing the resolution, because the opportunity of which he speaks may not occur for a considerable time.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Of course I will consider the suggestion, and I will communicate with the right hon. Gentleman on the subject; but I may add that I am not convinced by what he has said.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, who no doubt is aware of the communication which you, Mr. Speaker, read to the House at the commencement of business, whether he will put down Irish Supply and the Attorney General's Vote on the earliest possible day, to give to Irish Members an opportunity of discussing the prosecution of the hon. Member for North Leitrim.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will do my best to meet the views of hon. Gentlemen; but though I cannot at present give an absolute pledge without consultation, as at present advised, I see no obstacle to putting down the Vote on Friday week. As I understand, hon. Members will not be able to discuss in Committee of Supply the sentence passed on a Member of this House or the action of the judge in passing it. The only subject of discussion would be the conduct of the Irish Executive in ordering the prosecution.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: As to the point of order, that may be dealt with when it arises. All we ask is that the Vote for the Attorney General's salary shall be put down at the earliest possible day. I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say he cannot put it down before Friday week.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have already announced that Votes in Class III. will be put down on Friday next, and there is considerable objection to upsetting an arrangement already made.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Inasmuch as we have had Irish debates during almost the whole time of the session, could not the right hon. Gentleman allow Friday week to be given to something connected with England?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not quite see the point of that request. Next Friday will be devoted to English questions, and there must be a certain number of days in the session devoted to Irish Supply. I do not know that it is more inconvenient to discuss Irish Supply on Friday week than on any other Friday If any special inconvenience could be shown either for English or Irish Members, alterations might be made.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: When will the Army resolutions be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am anxious to bring them on as soon as possible, for it is inconvenient to the War Office that the final decision should not be quickly taken. But progress must be made with the Budget and the Civil List proposals before those resolutions can be brought on.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of providing English Members with a Parliament for themselves?

THE NEW SUGAR DUTY—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the levying by the Customs authorities of duty on the bulk weight of articles containing sugar, instead of on the sugar itself.

*MR. SPEAKER: That can hardly be said to be a matter of urgency. It has already been stated that the Report of the sugar tax resolution is to be taken very shortly, and is to be followed by the Finance Bill. Therefore the question can hardly be said to be urgent.

MR. KEARLEY: It is a matter of extreme urgency. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer knew that he was going to levy the duty, my complaint is that he did not make his investigations beforehand. The matter is urgent in this way. Unless we get an assurance that this will be rectified, it is impossible that the trade can be carried on. The whole trade is demoralised.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. The hon. Member is making a speech on the question.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am as anxious as the hon. Member can be that the matter should be settled, and I will do my best to settle it.

MR. KEARLEY: Why did you not make your inquiries beforehand?

WATER COMPANIES (LIABILITY FOR STORAGE OF WATER) BILL.

Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Water Companies (Liability for Storage of Water) Bill, with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Louis Sinclair.*)

NEW BILLS.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Spear, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Duke, Mr. Peel, Mr. Schwann, and Mr. Cawley.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 146.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1888, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Spear, Mr. Duke, Mr. Oldroyd, and Mr. Taylor.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Local Government Act, 1888," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 147.]

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

INCOME TAX.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Income Tax shall be charged for the year beginning the sixth day of April, Nineteen Hundred and One, at the rate of one shilling and twopence."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Isle of Thanet) said the proposals contained in the Budget with regard to the augmentation of the income tax had very properly been taken great exception to. But he wished rather to draw attention to the general features of the Budget taken as a whole. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had had a great opportunity presented to him in connection with the Budget, and he had missed it, although he had advanced somewhat from the hopeless and impracticable attitude which had been the vogue for many years past. They were used to being told on these annual occasions how our glorious and beneficent fiscal system had enabled this country to surmount all difficulties and dangers. But he noticed the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not this year passed the usual eulogies upon our broken-down financial system. The right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire had indeed spoken of it—possibly reading from some old notes—as the envy and admiration of the world. But the world had shown its envy of the system by universally discarding it.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the right hon. Gentleman that the only subject that can be discussed on this resolution is the incidence of the income tax. He cannot enter on a general review of the fiscal position.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: We were assured by the Government that as they were most anxious to get certain resolutions involving new taxes passed at once, that being a matter of urgent necessity, the Committee would be allowed to take the general discussion upon the remaining resolutions.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I asked for an assurance from the Government, and received it, that there should be a general discussion.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That understanding only applied to the next day—Friday—when the general discussion was taken—if I may be permitted to say so—very inconveniently. I never understood that the undertaking would apply to this day.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: The Chairman has, no doubt, quite correctly stated the general practice. But on this occasion it was pointed out that it would be extremely inconvenient for these new duties to remain in abeyance while the whole Budget was being discussed. I certainly understood the Government to undertake that indulgence would be extended to those hon. Members who had in the public interest refrained from taking part in the general discussion of the Budget on the earlier resolutions. Anyhow the Government deliberately pledged themselves to such a course in the face of Parliament. The Chairman of Committee was not a party to the undertaking, which was, I think, given in the whole House, but the Government distinctly made the promise.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I am sure that nothing which I said ought to have given rise to that impression. On Friday night the discussion was certainly general, including as it did a disquisition on the South African war, but I did not understand that the general discussion of that evening was to apply to every day upon which the Budget was put down.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): May I remind the right hon. Gentleman that there was not a whole night's debate on Friday, but only half a night's. It commenced at half-past nine.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I certainly understood that there was to be a general discussion now. There was some doubt about the arrangement at the time, and I asked a question specifically in order to obtain a definite answer. I asked whether the arrangement would apply not merely to the duties which were then discussed, but to the other duties.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): Mr. Speaker refused to allow my motion for the adjournment of the House on the sugar question, on the ground that the matter was to be discussed to-night.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is mistaken. It was refused on the ground that it could come up on the Report stage.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: But can we discuss it on Report? We are told we cannot.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I never said that. It certainly can be discussed on the postponed Report. As soon as the other resolutions in the Budget are passed in Committee the resolution on sugar will come up for discussion—probably on Thursday, as far as I can judge.

*Mr. JAMES LOWTHER: In these circumstances I understand that the discussion now will be a general one.

*The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I must stop the right hon. Gentleman. That is certainly not my understanding of the agreement entered into. I was not consulted with reference to the setting aside of the ordinary rules of the House, and was no party to any such arrangement. My duty, therefore, now is to see that the ordinary rules of the House are maintained. The general discussion can take place on the first or second resolution of the Budget, but when subsequent resolutions are reached, then the debate should be confined to the subject-matter of those resolutions. I understood the agreement come to on Thursday evening to be limited to the next sitting of the Committee, but not to extend beyond that day. [Cries of "Move to report progress."]

*Mr. JAMES LOWTHER said a suggestion had been made to him that he should move to report progress, but he recognised that the Chairman's duty was to carry out the rules of the House. The Government, however, distinctly undertook to sanction the arrangement of a general discussion now, and they had the statement of the right hon. Gentleman opposite that he had received an assurance that a discussion of a general character would be allowed to take place on all resolutions. But he did not wish to press the point, and he would therefore deal with that most obnoxious imposition the income tax. He would, however, tell his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he had introduced a very unpopular Budget, and that he was trying to smuggle it through without discussion. The income tax was the impost of all others most closely associated with the Cobdenic school. It had gone up by leaps and bounds. Designed originally as a war tax, it had since become a favourite instrument for constructing sensational Budgets in time of peace. It had been the refuge of those who wished to evade their difficulties and to retard the fulfilment of their obligations. Our fiscal system had been described as the "envy and admiration of the world." But the "envy and admiration of the world" for the income tax had not hitherto been very marked. Foreign countries had discarded it; indeed, the income tax was highly unpopular in all the countries of the world. No Government—autocratic, a limited monarchy, or a Republic—appeared to approve of it. Our own colonies had not followed the example of the mother country in this respect. They preferred to extract taxes largely from the foreign producer; and it was worthy of notice that the affection of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for this form of taxation exclusively was cooling somewhat. The foreigner hitherto had been a sacred person whose pocket must in no way be touched, but now he was getting somewhat out of favour. One of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's imposts was openly avowed by him as intended to relieve the British taxpayer out of the needs of the foreign consumer. The war was not responsible for the breakdown of our much-vaunted economic system, which it was at last admitted had signally collapsed; it had been the growth of our normal expenditure, which had caused the present difficulties, and no one could predict where it would stop. It was not expenditure upon the defensive forces of the nation which could be held mainly responsible for our difficulties. How about the bloated Education Estimates, the money flung at the heads of the county councils to squander on so-called technical education and matters of that kind. and which was recklessly spent? They did not raise the money, and they did not care how they spent it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke about holding a fair balance between direct and indirect taxation, but he had pointed out before that this balance was based on erroneous premises, because the payers of income tax were relatively also large contributors to indirect taxation. The right hon. Gentleman entirely ignored the fact that the income-tax payers were also large contributors to indirect taxation. Let them take as an instance the increased duty on sparkling wines: was it not the income-tax payer who had also to pay that, and could that be fairly quoted as a contribution from the classes who do not pay income-tax, and which made it necessary to increase direct taxation to balance it. For such really was the argument of the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he spoke of the equal apportionment of direct and indirect taxation. He quoted that to show that the right hon. Gentleman on this point was entirely erroneous in his premises. At the present moment the direct taxpayer was far more heavily burdened than the Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated to the House. His system was the knocking off of the duty from the numerous articles which formerly contributed to the revenue, and the concentration of all the efforts of the Exchequer upon a few selected articles.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Hear, hear.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: But that system had broken down and collapsed. To increase the income tax at a time when direct taxation had been contributing far more than its fair share of the total liabilities appeared to be indefensible. His right hon. friend had been afforded a great opportunity in connection with the Budget, and it was in his power to have taken advantage of the patriotic outbursts throughout the British Empire to draw closer the commercial ties which were the surest means of maintaining the unity of the Empire. There was a general desire for the free interchange of commodities as far as could be in the various parts of the Empire. The right hon. Gentleman had always had strong objection to the cultivation of friendly commercial relations with their colonies. He always treated the foreigner and the British subject upon identical terms, and he knew no difference between the Belgian and the Canadian—indeed he thought that the right hon. Gentleman preferred the Belgian, as being nearer home. That was what he called Little Englandism. If ever there was one principle which had made greater progress during the last few years it was the establishment of preferential duties between this country and the various parts of the Empire. The Chancellor of the Exchequer must not think that he was asking him to adopt some reactionary protection doctrine, because he was talking of revenue, and as a substitute for his income tax he might have done better if he had consulted an eminent gold medallist at the Cobden Club, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That gentleman was received with open arms at the Cobden Club, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer might even hope to get the gold medal himself if he would only adopt the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. What had he done? Why he had so arranged the duties as to accord preferential treatment to inter-British trade? Sir Wilfrid Laurier had, in fact, given a preference of 25 per cent., since increased to 33⅓ per cent., to inter-British trade, and was forthwith decorated with the gold medal of the Cobden Club. Why did the Chancellor of the Exchequer not adopt some statesmanlike and patriotic attitude of that kind? Why was the right hon. Gentleman so devoted to Little England finance? The missing of this opportunity had caused great disappointment, not merely in Canada where they had shown the lead and given us for some years past great commercial advantages, but it had also created great disappointment in the new Commonwealth of Australia where they relied upon the Customs revenue but were perfectly ready to reciprocate friendly overtures. This was a principle which his right hon. friend need not think was by any means dead. He might pass it over, but it was making the greatest progress throughout all parts of the Empire, and he would find himself confronted with a strong demand that he should no longer stand in the way of what was a true British demand. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had consoled himself with an addition to the income tax and certain other imposts which it would be irregular to discuss at the present time. Without any very great effort he could have supplied himself with the sum which his income tax was expected to produce without any substantial interference with the habits or the mode of living of the people. The right hon. Gentleman took credit to himself that at any rate this duty would not benefit any British subjects more than the inhabitants of the most distant realms. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would realise that he had missed a great opportunity, that he had created vast disappointments, and he had done more to retard the general advance of the British Empire than any of his predecessors.

*Mr. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said he experienced the greatest difficulty in following the line taken by the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. He complained of the income tax being put at 1s. 2d. in the £, and in that complaint he was cheered by hon. Gentlemen opposite. Those very hon. Gentlemen who were applauding the right hon. Gentleman had supported this Government through thick and thin, and the Government were responsible, not for 2d., but for 6d. on the income tax. The right hon. Gentleman and his friends must recognise that as a consequence of their support of the present Government in its extravagant ways they must accept not only an occasional twopenny increase in the income tax, but a shilling in the £1 as a permanency. It was their duty to examine the reasons for this expenditure. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had told them that they had got to provide for a permanent increase of expenditure, amounting in the last five years to no less than £28,000,000 a year. What did that mean? That the 1s. income tax had become permanent. [Cries of "No, no."] They could not point out to him any probable new sources of revenue which were likely to reduce that shilling to a lower figure. They could not look to any reduction so long as they had at the head of affairs a Prime Minister who had publicly rebuked the Treasury for its parsimony, Before Lord Salisbury could have got to the point of declaring in public that his difficulties were increased by the parsimony of the Treasury what an amount of pressure he must have put upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to induce him to consent to every kind of extravagance—an extravagance which had landed them to-day with an income tax of 1s. 2d. in the £. Personally, he should not blame the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but rather defend him; he had been attacked, not from the Opposition side, but by the Prime Minister.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: No.

*Mr. McKENNA said it was within the recollection of the Committee that an attack was made upon the Treasury, and the right hon. Gentleman was responsible for the policy of the Treasury. The hon. Member for King's Lynn the other evening declared himself unwilling to drive home the responsibility of the Government for the increase of expenditure, and in very forcible language he appealed to the Government not to imperil their existence, because he saw no possibility of an alternative Government. It was surprising to hear the hon. Member say that he could see no possible alternative to a Ministry of which he was not himself a member. But although the hon. Member might hold that opinion as to the necessity of maintaining those particular gentlemen in office, he for one did not believe that any such opinion was held by the country at large. On this side of the House they had been twitted that they were not a united Party. [Ministerial cries of "Hear, hear."] Hon. Gentlemen opposite cheered that statement, but those who were present when the Chancellor of the Exchequer made his Budget statement had a very extraordinary spectacle presented to them. Hon. Members opposite could not see it, but it was apparent to Members sitting on the Opposition side. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, after making a brilliant, capable, and honest Budget statement, lasting a very considerable time, sat down between two right hon. colleagues, one on his right and the other on his left, who received his speech with stern silence, with implacable coldness, almost with resentment. In order to bring himself in order he would suggest that that resentment was due to the proposed increase of the income tax, but if he might give his honest opinion he should be inclined to attribute it to the right hon. Gentleman's frank statement that during the last five years the expenditure of the country had been increased by £28,000,000 sterling. It was said that the Government were not responsible for that expenditure, but that the House as a whole was responsible. More than that, it was said that the constituencies were responsible. That statement might very well be made upon a public platform, but he was astonished that anyone should adduce it in that House, where "a miserable and divided Opposition" had learned through bitter experience that they were absolutely impotent in opposing the Government. With the knowledge that year by year they had had their rights and privileges taken from them, were they to be told on this side of the House that they had been responsible for the extravagance of the Government? Not so very long ago Lord Salisbury told the country that the Treasury were too parsimonious. They must look to the head of the Government for the responsibility for the extravagance, and not to those on the Opposition side, who, in season and out of season, had endeavoured by every means in their power to resist that extravagance. It was difficult to put one's hand on each particular item of expenditure, and to say whether it ought to be reduced. He would give the House one instance of extravagance. There was the question raised by the hon. Member for King's Lynn, with respect to the docks which were being built at Gibraltar. A scheme was introduced in the 1892 Parliament which was to cost something like £2,000,000 for the Gibraltar docks.

*The CHAIRMAN pointed out that this matter was not relevant to the resolution before the Committee.

*Mr. McKENNA admitted that he laboured under a difficulty in referring to the subject. He would only name it, without going into detail. The hon. Member for King' sLynn, after personal examination of the subject on the spot, found that a very large increase in the expenditure, covering several millions, undertaken by the present Government, was wasted money. A Commission was appointed, of which the hon. Member was chairman. He understood that the Commission had unanimously reported—the Report had not yet been made public—but it was quite obvious, since it was unanimous, and the hon. Member for King's Lynn had already made up his mind on the subject, what the nature of the Report would be. It was a Report that would justify the pamphlet written by the hon. Member, in which he charged the Government with having wasted a considerable amount of money. If they went to any part of the world where the Government had been carrying on warlike or peaceful operations, they would find that there had been extravagance after extravagance of small sums here and there, contributing largely to the total increase of £28,000,000 during the fiveyears the Government had been in office—apart altogether from the war in South Africa. In the three years during which the late Liberal Government had been in office the public expenditure had increased by only three millions. During the previous twenty years it had increased by only twenty-three millions. Had there been anything in the condition of the world during the past five years to justify an increase of twenty eight millions in the public expenditure? Germany, which had not been behindhand in pushing its policy, had increased its expenditure during the same period by only ten millions. He did not understand the objection of hon. Gentlemen opposite to the increase in the income tax. As they had to swallow a pill, they ought to do it with cheerfulcountenances. They told their constituencies that they had Heaven-sent Ministers to guide them, but in the House they grumbled and said those Ministers were extravagant. Let them be true to themselves either in the House or in the country.

Mr. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said he did not propose to wander quite so far as the hon. Member had done in his speech, but certainly he was encouraged to do so by the amiable indulgence which the Chairman had shown to the hon. Member. He wished to join his right hon. friend the Member for Thanet in expressing regret that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had thought it necessary to increase that onerous and most unfair impost, the income-tax

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: Hear, hear.

Mr. VICARY GIBBS said the satirical cheers of his right hon. friend the Member for West Monmouthshire did not disturb him. It was not because the increase in the tax fell upon him or upon his friend that he objected to it, but because it was morally unjust in its incidence. That tax fell alike upon the man who had a wasting security and the man who had a permanent security; it fell upon the man who had to earn his livelihood by his own labour or brains, which were subject to exhaustion; and it fell no more heavily upon the man who had a settled income from Consols. It might be said that the middle-classes, to whom the increase in the income tax was a serious matter, had made a mistake in returning the Government to office. Constituents wrote to him saying that they were not going to vote for him again. He was sure that hon. Members would be pleased to hear that these constituents were not going to vote for him; but that did not distress him particularly. He might, however, say that these gentlemen would only get out of the frying-pan into the fire, and he did feel a very great sympathy with them in this matter. A constituent had written to him that day on a small matter, but evidently under a misunderstanding. He inquired if the amount which he was entitled to deduct in respect of the landlord's property tax would be limited to 1s. He did not think there was any difficulty in the matter; for of course the answer was that when the tax was 8d. the deduction was limited to 8d.; when the tax was 1s. the deduction was limited to 1s.; and when the tax was 1s. 2d. the deduction was limited to 1s. 2d. He would be glad, however, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would make the point clear. The hon. Member who last spoke joined the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a strong demand for economy. He sympathised with that demand; although he fully recognised that there was no party in the House—at least not more than half a dozen Members—who acted together in insisting on economy in national expenditure at all points. Where there was continuous temptation to extravagance, and to which the House fell a victim, was owing to the fact that civil servants had been given votes. [Cries of "Oh, oh."] He knew that that was an unpopular argument, but it was the true thing to say. It was a thing which every man would say in private, but not in public. Here were large bodies of civil servants organising and pressing hon. Members by notes and circulars and in every way to grant their demands, with the implied threat that the votes of a considerable body of men in their constituencies would be withdrawn from them if they did not grant these demands. Well, human nature was human nature, and great was the temptation put before any hon. Member who very much desired the honour of a seat in this House, and who had a very small majority, to succumb to the demands of, say, a very fine body of postmen in his constituency. He did not say that the postmen were unjustified in the demands which they made; but even if they were unjustified they would find Members of Parliament to support them. He asked the House seriously to consider whether a grave blunder had not been made in granting the franchise to the civil servants. It was a serious question, which affected in a most material degree the complaint which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made. He was debarred, owing to the unfortunate misunderstanding which he and almost every Member of the House had fallen into in regard to the bargain which the Government had made with them, from touching on any other subject than the income tax, and he would only ask the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer to seriously consider what he had urged as to the strong distinction which existed between wasting securities, whether of brain or capital, and those which were maturing.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he need not traverse the general unfairness of the incidence of the income tax, but he wished to point out the extreme unfairness of an increase without readjustment. The impost would fall with extreme severity on the smaller class of income tax payers. In 1894 the late Chancellor of the Exchequer—the result of whose financial statesmanship must be very agreeable to the present Chancellor of the Exchequer just now, although he opposed it strongly at the particular time—increased the income tax from 7d. to 9d., but in such a way that no fewer than 500,000 income tax payers paid less at 8d. than they would have done under the old system at 7d. That was to say, the smaller class of income tax payers got off more cheaply, for the Chancellor of the Exchequer of that day raised the exemption from £150 to £160, and widened the range of abatements. He wanted to know why that policy had not been pursued now. Why should not the Chancellor of the Exchequer be able to get all the additional revenue he required without increasing the impost on the smaller income tax payers ? There were no more estimable and blameless members of society than the small middle class people, who were ground down with taxation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might find cold comfort in saying that the income tax was 2s. in the £1 at the time of the Peninsular War ; but the men for whom he pleaded had to bear far heavier burdens, in the way of local taxation particularly, than were known at the time of the Peninsular War. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that at the time of the Crimean War the income tax was 1s. 4d., and therefore 1s. 2d. should be paid cheerfully now. But there was then a differential rate of income tax—the small payer paid 11½d and the larger class paid 1s. 4d. He confessed he did not know whether that was good political economy, but he would like to go back to the differential rate, and put a much heavier impost on the larger incomes. He pleaded for the lower middle class of people, who had so many burdens on them, and who lived a godly, righteous, and sober life, and who were the cream of the community. The education of their children was expensive, the State not having provided cheap secondary education. They were, perhaps, buying their houses through a building society, and had often poor relatives to assist. Convention demanded a measure of respectable living and clothing which was a severe drain on their small incomes. He would take the opportunity to test the question as to whether or not, even in this Budget, some plan could be devised to relieve that class from additional imposts on incomes up to and including £500 a year. It ought not to tax the ingenuity of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his officials to lay out a scheme in the Schedule on the lines of his own scheme of 1899, and to go back to the days of the Crimean differential rate by relieving incomes up to £500 of any further impost, and yet be able to get the revenue he required. It was said that they ought to be punished for "Mafficking," but there was no public policy in telling a man that, because he was deluded into a mistaken act two years ago, he should be overburdened with taxation. Moreover he did not think that it was the class for whom he was pleading that did the "Mafficking."

Mr. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said he would like to say a few words on the income tax. There was no doubt that the extra 2d. was necessary at the present time, but it was a fact that it was causing a great deal of annoyance among a most estimable body of the community. Inasmuch as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had raised two thirds of his additional revenue from indirect and only one third from direct taxation, he thought all would agree that, taking it as a whole, it was a fair arrangement. He strongly urged on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider the question whether some arrangement could not be made on the lines of the suggestions of the hon. Member for the St. Albans Division. A good many years ago he himself had brought forward a scheme of differential rating on incomes from old investments and on the reward of present-day labour ; and he was sure there would never be a perfectly fair income tax until a distinction was made between these two sources of income. Of course a change of this sort involved a great deal of trouble, and a Chancellor of the Exchequer did not like to embark on a new and difficult system of taxation which involved that. The tax would be less unpopular if a differentiation could be made between incomes derived from labour and incomes derived from investment. All taxes were unpopular, especially the income tax, and therefore the Chancellor of the Exchequer should levy it with as much consideration as possible. He was afraid that that was not now done. He brought before the House last year an instance as to the system of claiming arrears of income tax on the higher rate, a matter which he supposed concerned a great many persons, and which seemed to him to be sharp practice on the part of the Treasury. In some instances especially most extortionate demands had been made in connection with arrears. He would again mention the case of the Jamaica Railway, which was established practically by the English people in order to promote the well-being of Jamaica. The great bulk of the money required to build the railway was raised on debentures, and there was a clause in the agreement that if the railway did not answer they should be exchanged for Colonial Bonds. Of course the railway did not answer, and the debentures became Jamaica Bonds. Three years elapsed before the arrangement was completed, and in the meantime the income tax had been raised from 8d. to 1s., and because the income tax for the three years was paid on the 10th of April instead of on the 30th of March, a 1s. tax was claimed for the entire period. That seemed to him to be a system of imposing the income tax which made the tax very much more unpopular than it otherwise would be. It was not fair, and if a tradesman had acted in that way he would not be supported by the law. No doubt the Chancellor of the Exchequer was acting within his right, but such a system as that tended to make people dislike and resent the payment of the tax.

The whole question of the income tax had been many times debated in the House of Commons during the last half century. Mr. Gladstone had an idea of amending its various anomalies, but the matter proved too difficult even for him to carry out. With the income tax at its present enormous high rate—and in his opinion it would not be much lower—it was essential that it should be levied on a fairer and more equitable system. What the Chancellor of the Exchequer said about the enormous increase of expenditure was a matter which should be considered by all who had the interests of the country at heart. No doubt the enormous increase in the national expenditure was largely due to hon. Members themselves. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was about the only man in the House who really seemed to try and control expenditure. With reference to the remarks of his hon. friend on the various phases of the public service, the Chancellor of the Exchequer once said that it might be necessary to disfranchise public servants, if they went on clamouring in the way they did for more pay, while their appointments were clamoured for by hundreds of people who could not get them. The Government should be fair and liberal, but it was never intended that an organised body should exist for the purpose of increasing the salaries of the class to which they belonged. While being fair and liberal to the servants of the country, the system of always endeavouring to increase payment, whether it was deserved or not, ought to be discouraged. The current expenditure of the country was growing in a way that was very alarming, apart altogether from the war. The enormous expense of war was, to a certain extent, an advantage, because it prevented people going into war as readily as they otherwise would, and he thought it was providential that war was so enormously expensive. How could the increasing national expenditure be stopped? It was quite clear that unless the Government with the largest majority of modern times was firm and strong—and it ought to have, if any Government ever had, the power of putting a stop to unnecessary expenditure, whether it was popular or not—unless they had the pluck and determination to arrest the development of expenditure, they would have to regard 1s. as the normal income tax, and would have to increase taxation in many directions. The infliction of suffering on the part of the poorer people was a matter which should also be considered, and they would not be worthy of the position they held in the House of Commons unless they insisted on the Government doing something to prevent the enormous growth of national expenditure from year to year.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that after discussing several subjects on the Budget they had at last settled down to the income tax, but he was afraid that it was very unfortunate that they were confined to one subject. After the ruling of the Chair, he did not desire to revert to the general question, as no doubt there would be another opportunity of dealing with it. The hon. Member who had just sat down desired an income tax which would fall with equal weight on every income-tax payer. He desired to tax the individual income, but that was an impracticable position. It had been attempted more than once, and had been found impossible. In 1853 Mr. Gladstone proved, as far as a proposition could be proved, that it was impossible to deal with the individual income, and that incomes must be dealt with by taxing them at their source. The hon Member would distinguish between one class of income and another. Personally, he did not pay any income tax as an individual. His sources of income were already taxed before they reached his hand; but under the system of individual taxation he would have to make a return of his full income, and he was afraid his inclination would be not to put his income higher than he possibly could. Permanent income at the present moment was derived from realised property, which was subject to a tax which was not unreasonable. The high death duty did away with a good deal of the injustice of the inequality of taxation. Year by year the actual pressure of the tax on precarious incomes had been diminished by abatements and concessions. The system of graduated taxation upon free incomes of the lower class, under which incomes up to £160 were altogether exempt, was a complete system of graduated taxation so far as it went, and he thought that that system should be extended to a much higher figure. He should not hesitate to graduate income tax in that way up to incomes of £1,000 a year or more. That was a proposition which any Government might accept, because Governments of both parties had from time to time given greater exemptions and abatements in regard to income tax. He was in accord with the hon. Member for Camberwell that when the income tax was raised it should be graduated to a greater extent. He regretted that he could not support this proposal as a whole. He was not, he said, one of those who thought the additional 2d. ought not to have been placed on the income tax. In his opinion a yet further addition of 2d. should have been placed upon it. We were in the middle of a long war, which was to cost £170,000,000, and yet it was only proposed to raise £27,000,000 by extra taxation. In his view the amount raised by extra taxation was inadequate to the total amount of the war. His general objection to the whole Budget was that the Government were not raising enough by extra taxation to meet the great burden placed upon the country. That observation also applied to indirect taxation, which did not produce sufficient revenue, taking into account the cost of the war and the disturbance to trade that would be involved by the imposition of the sugar and coal duties. He was glad that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not given way to the clamour against taxing the rich at all, on the ground that the poor relations of the rich would suffer. He should support this resolution.

Mr. DAVID MacIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had done as well as he could under the circumstances. He cordially supported the proposals as to sugar and coal; but he accepted the increase of the income tax as a disagreeable necessity, forced upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the desirability of winning some measure of support from the front Opposition bench. The income tax was one which was levied mainly on British industries, while incomes derived from investments abroad were largely exempt, not theoretically, perhaps, but for all practical purposes, because those who held shares in British concerns had their income tax deducted from the dividends when paid. In the case of those who had investments abroad the dividends had first to be traced. It was not too much to say that there was a large amount of leakage in that respect, and that many persons who ought to pay income tax paid nothing at all. There was also a good deal of money which ought to be collected which was not collected. There were a great many people employed in the colliery districts who were well known to be in receipt of £200 or £300 a year who never contributed. He supported the Budget, and would vote for the extra 2d., on the income tax because he believed the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not avoid, placed in the position he was, putting it on. The speech of the hon. Gentleman who had preceded him represented largely the view of the opposite side of the House that there ought to be more than 2d., but with that view he could not agree. There could not be in a large form a worse tax than the income tax. He greatly regretted that it had not been possible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to propose that the foreign importations into this country, which contributed nothing to the revenue, and many of which entered into competition with our industries, should bear some portion of the burden, instead of it being imposed upon the unfortunate British taxpayer in the shape of income tax. He should, however, not oppose the income tax resolution, but support it as a disagreeable necessity forced upon the Government by the obvious common sense position in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer found himself, of being obliged to follow the line of least resistance.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said that many extraordinary economic heresies had from time to time been put forward in the Committee, but the view of the hon. Member for the Kirkdale division really beat all. If hon. Members who held such opinions attempted to put their theories into practice they would all within a couple of years cease to represent any commercial community in the country. With regard to the income tax, he thought that where it was desirable that direct taxation should bear the largest possible proportion of the taxes Irishmen would be in favour of the direct taxation being in the form of an income tax. The incidence, of course, whether between individuals, employments, or countries, was quite another matter. He and his colleagues were all in sympathy with the graduation of the tax, so that the higher the income the larger the proportion of the tax imposed. Up to 1853 Ireland was recognised as a separate fiscal entity as regarded the income tax. Owing to the disastrous years of scarcity in 1847-8, large local sums for relief became due, and these amounts were paid by the English Treasury. Shortly afterwards Mr. Gladstone imposed for the first time the income tax in Ireland, in order to counterbalance the sums the Treasury had paid. The tax was avowedly imposed as a temporary charge—for eleven years—but forty-seven years had since passed, and still the income tax remained. In discussing the general financial relations, the Treasury usually urged the difficulty of arranging the matter with regard to indirect taxation generally without erecting custom-houses and creating trade barriers in Ireland, but here was a tax in regard to which the Treasury could, without any such alteration, give some effect to the findings of the Royal Commission of four or five years ago. One could not help having a feeling approaching contempt for the men who hurrahed and shouted for the war, but were now grumbling through *The Times* and the *Standard* at the paltry addition of 2d. on the income tax which they were called upon to pay. If there was any portion of the Empire which under present circumstances ought to escape this additional income tax it was Ireland, not only because of the historical fact to which he had alluded, but also because the increase was undoubtedly due to the enormous expenditure on the costly and bloody war in South Africa, against which Ireland had always protested, and therefore for which she should not be called upon to pay.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) considered that the Budget as a whole was as fair a Budget as could under the circumstances have been devised, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was to be congratulated on having made the additional burden of taxation fall as equally as possible on all classes and interests. Those who were disposed to criticise the income tax should remember that such questions had to be regarded not only from their financial and ecomonic aspect, but also from their political aspect, and it would not be possible for any Chancellor of the Exchequer to put taxes on sugar and coal —both of which were commendable under present circumstances—without also increasing to a moderate extent the income tax. The hon. Member for Poplar was not likely to get many to join in his regret that an additional 4d. was not put on the income tax, and that the taxes on coal and sugar were not 2s. 6d. per ton and 1d. per pound respectively.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON pointed out that his regret was that the taxation mposed this year was not twice as much, considering the amount of the debt.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said that was practically the same thing. From that point of view the criticism of the hon. Member was very unfair. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had hit upon a very happy mean in the amount he had imposed upon present taxpayers and that which posterity would have to pay. The war was one for which posterity would gain to a much larger extent than was the case with regard to many wars in which this country had been involved, and therefore the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government were quite justified in placing a very considerable portion of the burden upon the shoulders of posterity. British trade with South Africa amounted to about £20,000,000 before the war. He believed that ten years after the war had finished and peace been restored that trade would have doubled, and no one could say that that would not be a great benefit to future generations and to the present generation. The hon. Member who had just sat down took the same line which was taken the other night by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire and other speakers on the opposite side in throwing the whole responsibility for this great expenditure upon the present policy of His Majesty's Government. He held that that was a most unjust charge, for the persons who were really responsible for it were those who caused the war originally by the capitulation after Majuba. This extra 2d. on the income tax was due to their action far more than to the policy of His Majesty's Government. All the expenditure upon this war might have been averted by timely action, but who were the persons responsible for preventing that timely action? Why, the hon. Gentlemen sitting on the opposite benches. In every single case they carried on a policy of inaction. In 1884, 1894, and 1896, they were the persons who prevented action being taken when it would have saved all this expense. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had no right to throw the responsibility for these increases on His Majesty's Government. The war in South Africa was forced upon this country, and a great British conspiracy in South Africa rendered the war inevitable. [Nationalist cheers.] Hon. Members opposite were always ready to take advantage of a slip. He should have said that a great anti-British conspiracy had rendered the war inevitable, and the persons who could have avoided that war, or at least made it easy and inexpensive, were those persons who should have dealt with that anti-British conspiracy in time. He protested against the way in which hon. Members opposite had charged the Government with responsibility for this expenditure, when they themselves were the cause of it. With regard to the incidence of taxation, he was not aware that the income-tax payers had raised any outrageous cry against the tax. There had been a certain amount of correspondence in the press, and he had heard much complaint from the Ministerial Benches. Although everyone regretted the increase in the income tax, yet he thought the income tax payers as a whole had behaved much more creditably than the coalowners and great coal merchants, who had made an outcry of which he was thoroughly ashamed. Nobody had gained so much by this war from the increased price of coal, carriage, and transport as they had; they ought to pay, and he was glad the Chancellor of the Exchequer was going to make them pay, although he believed that in the long run the tax would fall rather on the foreign consumer. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his Budget, in which he had made a very equal division of the taxation. He believed this Budget was an original, bold, and fair one, and one which would be popular with the country.

Mr. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) said that the hon. Member who had just sat down had managed to wander somewhat from the strict subject of the debate. The whole of the speakers on the opposite side of the House had, with the exception of the hon. Member who had just spoken, been harping upon the imposition of 2d. upon the income tax, and he could not help feeling that underlying some of the speeches made on the other side was the desire, perhaps unconscious, to return to protectionist theories and practices in the taxation of this country. Two hon. Members—the Member for Thanet and the Member for

Liverpool—blurted out that they did desire to return to protection; indeed, one hon. Member had spoken of the exploded theory of free trade. The income tax was of all existing forms of direct taxation the one against which most reasons might be urged, and there were, he understood, insuperable practical difficulties in the way of graduating it. But, after all, he approved of that form of direct taxation far more than the two other methods by which the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to raise additional taxation.

The hon. Member for Thanet had made his contribution towards the settlement of this difficult question of the finances of the country which they were considering at the present moment, and he had spoken of the bloated expenditure upon education. He could understand the hon. Member saying that until his anti-educational policy was carried out there would be little chance of inducing the mass of the people to agree to his theories with regard to protection. If it were accepted that £11,000,000 was to be raised by the three distinct methods proposed, then he thought the right hon. Gentleman had not proposed a sufficient increase of the income tax in proportion to the other methods. If they took the average family of a labourer with a wage of £1 a week, they found that the indirect taxation he would pay on sugar would amount to 1–54th of his income, whereas the increase in taxation to the man with an income of £1,000 a year, owing to the increase of income tax plus the tax on sugar, would amount to 1–105th part of his income. So that the labourer with £1 per week would pay almost double the proportion of his income that the man with £1,000 a year and upwards would pay. Seeing that every additional penny added to the income tax yielded less than the last one, he could not help thinking that it would have been a more just and economical way of dealing with the question if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had gone as far as to increase the income tax by 4d. in the £1. He knew perfectly well that he was excluded from considering the scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a whole, but he presumed he was not precluded from expressing the utmost possible dissent from the principles that underlay the speeches of hon. Gentleman opposite with respect to the increase of the income tax. The view that underlay those speeches in most cases was that this country should return to the protective system. He believed that such an attempt was hopeless. He believed that the people of this country were convinced by two generations of human life as to the enormous advantages we derived as compared with foreign nations from the system of free trade. Our national finance was based to a greater extent than that of any other nation in the world upon direct taxation. It seemed somewhat late in the day to have to argue that in the House of Commons. We could not by putting a duty on imports tax the foreigner. We were often told that good trade was the result of having a Unionist Government in office. But we had now removed almost all restrictions on trade, and there was no opportunity for a Government by its policy to produce good trade. But, although a Government could not produce good trade, it might by its legislation produce bad trade. It was the duty of every free-trader to nail to the counter such a false coin as the suggestion that we should return to the evil system of protection which sixty or seventy years ago well nigh ruined the country. By getting out of it, practically the recent prosperity of this country was wholly due.

*Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division had alluded to certain points on which he desired to say a few words. The hon. Member had endeavoured to put the blame for the war on previous Governments. He had no desire to enter into useless discussion in regard to the origin of the war, because the constituency he represented, and the people of Ireland generally, were opposed to the war, and had been from the commencement. They could not understand why they should be called upon to support a war upon which they were not consulted, and of which they disapproved. In regard to the way in which the war was begun, he could hardly understand the want of system that existed in this country, which was supposed to be a constitutionally governed country and under the management of the House of Commons. This war was manipulated and brought about by a capitalist clique altogether outside this House, but when the cost of the war was to be paid an appeal is made to Parliament which was not consulted, and they were obliged through their constituents to meet the expenditure. It appeared to him that a great constitutional principle was being lost sight of by the House, and he thought it would be well in future, when war was looming in the distance, that the First Lord of the Treasury should call the House of Commons to consider the question, and to consult it as to the advisability and necessity of plunging into war which the country would have to pay for in men, money, and social suffering.

The object of just taxation ought to be to adapt the financial burden to the capability of those who were called upon to bear the tax. He held that the wealthier classes did not pay a proportionate share of the income tax. A business man was called upon to make a hypothetical return of the amount of profit he was likely to realise in the ensuing year. That was a preposterous way to levy taxation. The poor governess was disproportionately burdened. Brains were taxed entirely out of ratio with rentals or royalties. The whole subject required to be reformed, and greater gradations of payments introduced. The income tax in Ireland was introduced in 1853 by Mr. Gladstone, who said it was to be a tax for seven years, but it had been continued ever since. British financiers when they got hold of a tax seldom relinquished it. The Irish people were told that it was in exchange for the payment of £260,000 a year, in connection with the Consolidated Fund annuities, that the income tax was imposed. The income tax amounted to double the amount of the Consolidated Fund annuities, and the result was that they had paid something like £30,000,000 in income tax since then. In his opinion Mr. Gladstone was the most expensive friend that Ireland ever had, from a taxpayer's point of view, and the sooner his system of taxation was abolished the better. For what had been the result of that financial policy? It had increased taxation and decreased population. For according as the population decreased, the incidence of taxation increased. Now that was a result that had not been attained or attempted by the Government of any civilised country in the world. While the population had decreased by one half since Her late Majesty came to the throne, the taxation had increased three-fold. These were very serious facts, and demanded the immediate attention of everyone in this House who had any interest in Ireland. He entirely traversed the statement made by the last speaker in regard to free trade. He did not believe that it was a policy of free trade. It was a policy of free imports; for they received everything from all parts of the world, while there was a wall of protection against British and Irish products and manufactures wherever they were exported. The Manchester school and all those who had obtained prosperity under so-called free trade looked upon a man as an utter fanatic who had the courage of his convictions on this question; but he believed that the time was approaching when the whole fiscal system of this country would have to be reconsidered and reconstituted, because if they went on as they were going——

*The CHAIRMAN: I would remind the hon. Gentleman that the income tax is the subject of debate.

*MR. FIELD said he was coming to the income tax. If the community of Great Britain ceased to earn money, then they could not pay anything, even income tax. That was what he was trying to prove. If the exports decreased and the imports increased to the same extent as had occurred during the last few years, then the income tax, instead of increasing, would diminish to such an extent that they would be obliged to put the taxes on something else. He maintained that they must reconsider the basis and the principles which governed the whole fiscal system of this country, because if it was continued, and the main burden of taxation was paid by the producer for the benefit of the consumer, the system could not last. England was living on its capital rather than its earnings; manufactures were declining, and the cultivation of land did not pay. In regard to Ireland and the Irish income tax, he found that it had decreased between 1896 and 1900 by no less a sum than £10,000. Now, that was a very important fact, and the Government naturally desire to keep up their Imperial revenue. This might be accomplished by revaluation through a Government department. The city of Belfast had recently been revalued, and the result was that the people of that city had to pay £13,000 per annum more in income tax. And what did they find? Loyal Belfast, which was supposed to open its arms to receive the burden of taxation, or any other gift, from this country was up in arms against that increase of the income tax. If this revaluation was to go on all over Ireland, and was calculated on the same basis as in Belfast, the result would be that the over-taxation of Ireland would be increased by more than a million a year. That was a very serious consequence. They were overtaxed by a sum of no less than three millions; and under this new Budget it would be almost four millions. What did that mean? There was a population of only 4½ millions, and it meant that every man, woman, and child would pay £1 of Imperial over-taxation. If the money was spent in the country there might be some justification for it; but it was nearly all exported and spent out of Ireland, so the financial ruin of Ireland was accelerated. As a Nationalist he protested against the income tax being increased, because after all he had no desire to see the wealthier classes of Irishmen leaving the country. On the contrary, his desire was that every Irishman should be able and willing to live at home. But if this system of increasing the income tax, and taxation generally, was persisted in, it was not alone the working people that would leave the country, but also the wealthier classes, and there would be fewer people to tax by and by. [Laughter.] Hon. Members might laugh, but that was a very serious statement. The population had decreased by nearly five millions in the last fifty years. He had been examining the emigration statistics, and he found that there had been a larger emigration last year than the year before. That was a subject which ought to interest the sympathy of humane men, instead of exciting laughter. After all, the people were the State, and if they had no people they would have no State, and if they had fewer people in Ireland they would get less taxes. He protested against this increase of the income tax in Ireland, though he did not object to an increase of the taxation on the wealthier classes by further graduating the income tax. He suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should give them some scheme whereby he would remit to Ireland the same amount which he proposed to take out of it by the increase in the income tax. An equal sum ought to be given back in the shape of a grant for some useful reproductive national purpose; some practical proposal should be offered and considered. A suggestion had been made in the Report of the Financial Relations Committee of giving a grant for reducing the rates of freight and fares on the Irish railways, which he commended to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. When Sir Robert Peel introduced his Income Tax Bill in 1842 it was strongly pressed on him to include Ireland, but he declined to do so on the ground that, having regard to the relative resources of both islands, Ireland as a whole already contributed to the Imperial revenue a quota relatively to her means quite as heavy as the people of Great Britain would have to contribute with the addition of income-tax, therefore the justice and necessity of remission and restitution to the overburdened Irish taxpayer.

Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said that an hon. Gentleman who had spoken had criticised the system which allowed the Government to go to war without the consent of Parliament. The Government did not go to war; it was the Boers who commenced to raid our territory and destroy the property of our settlers. There was no country in the world, so far as he knew, in which Parliament was consulted in regard to war. In the great American Civil War—which was the only one that had any resemblance to this war with the Boers—war was not declared by Congress but by the rebels. This war was also declared by the rebels.

An HON. MEMBER on the Irish Benches: They were not rebels, but a free people.

MR. CATHCART WASON said he did not know what constituted a rebel in the minds of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Loyalty and rebellion in their minds seemed to him to be very mixed up. It was a rebellion. [Cries from the Irish Benches of "It was not."]

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is getting far from the resolution before the Committee.

MR. CATHCART WASON said that he would not have intervened in the debate were it not for the refreshing remarks of the hon. Member for Devonport. The hon. Member resembled the worshippers in a barbaric country who set up an idol for themselves, worshipped it, then took it down, turned it inside out, put a bit of gilt paper on it, and then set it up again. The very suggestion of Protection had induced the hon. Member to tell the Committee what free trade had done for the country, and what would be the result of any modification of the present fiscal system. He was quite certain that the time would come when the country would have to reconsider its entire fiscal arrangements. Recent events had shown that the country stood almost alone, though not quite alone, as she had the hardy sons from her colonies around her. Just as America, a great nation which could stand alone against any foreign combination, had declared itself a Protectionist State, as had also the colonies, England would have to resort to Protection.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must connect his remarks somehow with the resolution before the Committee:

MR. CATHCART WASON said, with reference to the taxation of incomes, he did not altogether hold with the system proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He thought the time had arrived when some distinction ought to be made as regards the source from which incomes were derived. Whether an income came from a man's professional work or from realised wealth should be considered, and an increase might be put on incomes from the latter source. It would a'so be an improvement to carry the graduation of the income tax very much further. He agreed that it was a very difficult matter to impose new taxation, and he was sorry that the Government had not seen fit to throw the whole cost of the war on the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That does not arise. The matter has been discussed on another resolution and cannot be reopened.

MR. CATHCART WASON said that he would only say in conclusion that in his opinion it would have been much wiser and better if a graduated tax had been imposed, graduated not only in reference to the amount of the income, but also in reference to its incidence, so that it would not press too heavily on professional men whose incomes died with them, but should rather press on persons whose incomes were derived from realised wealth without having to work for it. The position of the taxpayer was not altogether a fortunate one, and he would simply have to make the best he could of it.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said he had no intention of following the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken into the realms of idolatry. But there were two suggestions made by the hon. Gentleman with which he heartily agreed. During the debate very little attention had been paid to what, in his opinion, was the most important question connected with the resolution—namely, the incidence of the income tax. When the tax stood at 8d. it was a very annoying and very oppressive one, but now that it had advanced to 1s. 2d. it was for certain classes of the community an almost intolerable tax. He did not propose that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should receive from the income tax less than he proposed to raise by his present scale, but he suggested that some regard should be paid to the taxable capacity of the various classes who would be called upon to pay the tax. Five years ago he put down a series of Amendments to the Finance Bill, his object being to obtain a graduated scale of taxation so far as the income tax was concerned. The right hon. Gentleman then said that it was practically impossible to adopt a graduated scale, but in the following year he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to extend the principle of graduation which existed as regards incomes up to £500, and the right hon. Gentleman did extend it to incomes up to £700. It was perfectly possible to graduate the income tax by means of exemptions. There was absolutely no difficulty whatever in taking that course, because the right hon. Gentleman and the Department over which he presided would only be following on the lines of existing legislation and existing administration. Was it right that a man with an income of £500 should only receive an abatement on £120, whereas a man with an income of £5,000 or £10,000 from invested funds was not required to pay a penny more in proportion, always excepting the small allowance he had mentioned. He would very earnestly support the appeal made by the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland that a distinction should be made between incomes earned by a man's own exertions and incomes derived from investments. Such a distinction was drawn in one of the great colonies of the Empire and there was no reason why it should not be drawn in Great Britain also. He would urge on the right hon. Gentleman that there was absolutely no difficulty whatever in graduating the income tax up to any desired point by means of exemptions.

*Mr. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) said he fully appreciated the importance, as regarded public convenience, of restricting the discussion to the resolution. He did not mean to traverse the ruling of the Chairman that the discussion must be thus restricted, and yet there was never an occasion on which it was more difficult, he might almost say impossible, to discuss the resolution without entering on the question of alternative taxation. When expenditure was such as to require further taxation, it was idle to criticise a proposed tax merely on the ground that it created inconvenience. Every tax must do so. The only effective criticism was to show that the money could be obtained in some other way with less inconvenience. But the importance of thus treating the question was specially great on the present occasion. In the speech on the introduction of the Budget—a speech which they all felt did the right hon. Gentleman great honour—the Chancellor of the Exchequer claimed for his Budget that it should not be regarded as a temporary expedient. He unflinchingly put before the House of Commons all the difficulties of the country, all its new indebtedness and all its increased expenditure, and he said that they should no longer consider the taxes he proposed as temporary expedients to tide over a temporary difficulty, but that they should be looked upon as changes in the normal taxation of the country. Therefore, they had to consider the income tax now proposed as being substantially the normal income tax in the future, and would have to compare it not with the 1s. tax of last year, which was confessedly temporary, but with the income tax as it stood before the war. Viewed in this light the normal income tax had been raised from 8d. to 14d., and they would have to consider whether it was right to almost double the income tax as a permanent measure. They could not of course criticise the tax properly without considering what substitute should be provided for it, but he did not propose to examine generally the alternatives that might be suggested. He was going to assume that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was right, and that he was obliged to raise by direct taxation as much as this increased income tax would yield. But the fact that the sum was to be raised by direct taxation did not necessitate its being raised entirely by the income tax. Our system of taxation would be a very unfair one if the income tax was the only form of direct taxation. Both the previous speakers had pointed out that one of the greatest objections to the income tax was that it fell alike on those who earned their incomes by their own skill or brains, and on those who derived their incomes from realised property. It taxed the owner and the earner alike, and now that the income tax was doubled the inequality of taxing the earner as much as the owner had become more serious. A man with an income from £10,000 in Consols paid neither more nor less income tax than a clerk who earned £275 a year. But those hon. Members had not realised that in this matter of direct taxation the inequality between those who earn and those who own was redressed in this country by means of the death duties. These fall solely on realised property, and though for the sake of general convenience they are levied once for all at a man's death, they are equivalent to an annual tax which is paid on realised property by those who own it, and which does not fall on the year's earnings. Thus a fair adjustment can be made between the direct taxation falling on owners and earners by properly proportioning the rates of the income tax and the death duties. When those duties were fixed the income tax was at 8d., and very careful calculations showed that in those circumstances those who derived their income from earnings paid just about half the rate per pound paid by those who derived their income from realised property. No one could say that such a proportion was unduly hard upon those who derived their income from realised property. But that balance had now been wholly destroyed, because the income tax had been nearly doubled, and there had been no increase in the capital tax levied by the death duties. The consequence was that by adopting this as a permanent method of raising revenue an undue proportion of the new burden was laid on the weaker shoulders. He did not attach any religious sanction to this particular balancing of the two sources of income, although he thought the proportion of two to one very reasonable under existing circumstances, but the arrangement was made by Parliament as being a fair proportion between those who had realised property and those who had not, and the burden on the back of the earner ought not to be increased without taking care that this proportion was being kept, and in this manner they could best satisfy the aims of those who wished to introduce a graduated income tax. It was easy to graduate the death duties, and therefore those who desired a graduated income tax could get all they wanted by making the death duties increase *pari passu* with the income tax. That not only enabled them to fairly divide the burden between the owners and earners and to effectually graduate the income tax, and what he regretted was that this great increase had been made in the income tax instead of the money being raised by increasing simultaneously and in the same proportion the income tax and the death duties.

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said the House was indebted to the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down for the advice which he had given to it. It was largely owing to his advice that the death duties had been the success they were, and he hoped that the views of the hon. Gentleman would receive due consideration from the Government. He could not agree with those who had protested against the increase of the income tax; it was they who had returned to power the gentlemen responsible for the policy which had resulted in the war and this increased taxation, and he had no admiration for the men who, having voted for the war, now came squealling to the House because an additional 2d. was put upon the income tax. In his opinion the increase should have been 2s. The gentlemen responsible for the war should be made to pay. One hon. Gentleman suggested a universal income tax of 4d. in the £, so that a labourer earning £50 a year would have to pay 17s.; he would not imagine that such a tax would be popular, and thought it would be a pity that hon. Gentlemen who advocated it did not address their constituents upon that subject. If they did, the House probably would not be burdened by their presence for long. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had truly said that much more taxation could not be put upon Ireland; the result of increasing the income tax from 8d. to 1s. had only been to secure an increased amount of £24,000, and such figures told the tale of poverty that all classes in Ireland suffered from when increasing the income tax by half only brought in such a paltry amount. When the income tax was imposed in 1873 upon Ireland it was distinctly stated by Mr. Gladstone that it was only to be levied for seven years; nevertheless, it was still being levied, and it had been increased until it had reached the straining point. The way in which this impost was levied in Ireland was absolutely iniquitous. Every year the persons responsible for gathering the tax increased their demands, until the unfortunate people who had to pay were forced to appeal to the courts, and the small traders of Ireland who were so forced had to disclose their poverty at the very worst time of the year for them, and the result was, in several cases, to his knowledge, within a very few months of applying to the court, these unfortunate persons found themselves in the Bankruptcy Court. He protested against such a system being allowed. Irish Members were entitled to protest on every possible occasion against any increase in the taxation imposed upon Ireland, as since 1893–94 the total amount levied in that country had increased from £7,568,000 to £8,664,000, and the present proposals would mean the addition of another £500,000. The persons mainly responsible for the present increases were the small income tax payers, who, through their jingoism, forced on the war in South Africa. These were the people who were now complaining, but they had previously had very little regard for the suffering and desolation caused by the policy of fire and sword, which, through their votes, they were the means of bringing into South Africa.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: I will not attempt to go into the question raised by the hon. Gentleman who last sat down, because, after all, I think if there be a grievance in Ireland with regard to taxation it is not in regard to the income tax. I have never been able to see why a person who is above the income-tax limit should not pay income tax in Ireland just as well as in Great Britain, and to excuse persons from the payment of income tax because they live in Ireland would seem to me to be an utterly unreasonable proposition to advance in regard to the taxation of the United Kingdom. This debate has been an interesting one to me. From one side have come theories as to taxation; from the other side have come other theories, but I do not think anybody has questioned the fact that we must raise more taxation this year, and that we must raise part of it at any rate by direct taxation. My right hon. friend the Member for the Isle of Thanet has with great skill utilised the opportunity for ventilating his peculiar theories upon the subject of our fiscal system. He almost suggested that if we would follow those theories we might abolish the income tax. At any rate, I think he went as far as this — that if I had adopted his theories no increase of the income tax would be necessary this year. Sir, I prefer the increase of the income tax to the adoption of his theories. I believe it to be better for the country, and I believe it to be fairer. Though I hope he may live for many years, I do not think he is likely to see the adoption of those theories by any Chancellor of the Exchequer, no matter to what Government he may belong. Hon. Members on the other side of the House, so far from objecting to the resolution which is now before the House, have rather blamed me for not proposing that, instead of 2d. additional to the income tax, 4d. additional should be levied this year. I endeavoured very carefully to balance the burden which this Budget has thrown upon the taxpayers of the country, together with the burdens which they were already bearing, and I think if I had adopted such a proposal as that it would have been unfair to the payers of direct taxation. Those who argue in favour of this, with the exception of one hon. and learned Gentleman, the Member for the Launceston Division, forget the heavy burden thrown on the payers of direct taxation in other ways. A good deal of the afternoon has been occupied with the discussion initiated by my hon. friend the Member for Hertfordshire with regard to the taxation of what he calls wasting incomes, or incomes derived from brain power, as compared with incomes derived from property; and the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Launceston went so far as to say—so I understood him—that any addition to the income tax, as compared with 8d. in the pound, at which it stood in the year 1894, ought to be balanced by a corresponding addition to the death duties. That certainly is not my view. I think the death duties were put in 1894 at an extremely high point. And I think the hon. Member has omitted to consider this, that to make the death duties a varying tax, which you might increase or decrease as you increase or decrease the income tax from year to year, would be extremely unfair to persons whose estates might be subject to the death duties within a particular year in which the tax was increased, while it would be extremely favourable to those persons whose estates became subject to the death duties when the duties were diminished.

MR. MOULTON was understood to express the belief that it was to be a permanent increase.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am a little more sanguine than the hon. and learned Gentleman. I do not look forward, though he may, to a permanent income tax of 1s. 2d. in the pound. I have hopes still lingering in the bottom of my mind that the additional taxation proposed in this year will turn the thoughts of the country, as I think it has already turned the thoughts of many members of this House, to the virtues of economy. Therefore a 14d. income tax may not be one of our permanent institutions. Another suggestion was, I think, made by the hon. Gentleman the Member for Flint Boroughs, who has taken great interest in this question, and has always been good enough to do me justice with regard to it, that there should be some further graduation of income tax in favour of the possessors of small incomes. One hon. Member, speaking from that side of the House, went so far as to suggest that the possessors of all incomes not exceeding £500 should be free from the additional income tax imposed for this year. I think such a proposal as that would be by no means a fair one. I should be very sorry myself in a year with an increased income tax to single out a particular class of income-tax payers as a class to be relieved of that increase. I think that that, financially, would be an extremely immoral course; it would be almost purchasing the support of that class in favour of an increase of taxation which, however unpopular it may be, ought to be levied by Parliament, so to speak, all round. And when the hon. Gentleman the Member for the Flint Boroughs invites me to a further graduation this year I must remind him that my last proposals of abatements, though accepted by Parliament, were not by any means universally approved of at the time by this House. There were comments precisely of the nature which I have just made myself, although in that year the income tax was not increased. I should be sorry to raise the rate of exemption from income tax. I think you could hardly make a greater mistake in our financial system.

With regard to the increase of abatements to a higher level, I confess that to my mind a limit of £700 does seem a reasonable point to which abatements may extend. It is too often forgotten by the possessors of small incomes and by those those who advocate their cause that with regard to the lowest grade of incomes on which income tax is paid the abatements system does give a very large relief now. I think it ought to. I do not say it might not be increased, but I should not think it right to make a proposal for increasing it at such a time as that with which we are now dealing. There is no difference, so far as I know, in the House as to the necessity of further taxation, and I think there is very little difference as to the necessity, at any rate, of a considerable part of that taxation being raised by an increase of the income tax. Therefore, as we have had a discussion of some length dealing with many aspects of the income tax, I would venture to ask the Committee whether we might not now be allowed to come to a decision on a matter on which, I think, we are generally agreed—that there should be an increase of the income tax to the extent of 2d. in the pound. So far as I have noticed there is only one other point in the discussion to which I ought to refer. My hon. friend the Member for North Islington criticised the administration of the tax with regard to the question of arrears. He referred to a matter that happened last year, and has not been repeated now, at any rate. The tax is levied, and must be levied on income which accrues to the possessor in the course of the year.

That income accrued—though the possessors were unfortunately kept out of it for some time—in the course of the year in which the tax was increased. That was unfortunate for them. But it might have accrued in a year in which the tax was lowered, and then we should not have heard any complaint. I by no means say that the income tax is a perfect one. I do not know any tax that can be so described ; but if any hon. Members think that they can easily make the income tax more perfect than it is now, I cannot give them better advice than that given by the hon. Member for Poplar —namely, to read that remarkable speech made by Mr. Gladstone on the income tax in 1853. A good many points have been raised as to the unfairness of the incidence of the income tax as between incomes derived from trade and brain work and incomes derived from those sources which are permanent ; but of this I am quite certain—that as a new kind of direct taxation has been derived from the enormous increase of the death duties, the burden is now practically fair as between persons who derive their income from their brains on the one side and those who are the possessors of property on the other side. Although it may be possible in quieter times and with less difficulties in regard to taxation to amend the income tax, still I do not think it would be easy, and I do not think that any other country has ever devised a better system on the whole than that system which we now possess.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT : I agree so entirely with what has fallen from the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the course he has adopted that I shall not detain the Committee more than a few seconds in referring to the income tax. All taxes are bad, but taxes are the fruit, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has shown, of extravagance, and whenever this House or the country makes up its mind no longer to have extravagance, then we shall diminish the income tax, and not before. But I observe that the people who most denounce the income tax are those who most promote extravagance. You will find that extravagance is not really discouraged in this country ; on the contrary, it is encouraged, and encouraged to a very great degree by those who most complain of the income tax. There is a great desire, no doubt, that the whole burden of taxation should be cast upon those who have an income of less than £160 a year, which is the low limit of the income tax. The people who want to get rid of the income tax are those who wish to levy the whole of this extravagant expenditure on the poorest classes of the community. [" No, no."] It is so. I cannot now go into an argument on the subject. Allow me to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is able now to make any reply to the appeal which I made to him earlier in the evening, at question time, to postpone the Report stage of the resolution as to the coal tax until an opportunity has been given for the miners to make representations to him on the subject.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH : Yes, Sir ; I have considered that matter, and I will undertake that the Report of the resolution shall be postponed until next week ; but may I express the hope that the Committee will decide as to the present resolution now, and then the remaining resolutions can be taken on Thursday ?

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) argued that there were many reasons why the proposed increase in the income tax should not apply to Ireland. Within the last seven years there had been a great falling off in incomes in Ireland. There was also a historical reason why the increase should not apply to Ireland——

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 363 ; Noes, 88. (Division List No. 138.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.Sir Alex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W. B. (Hants
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J A (Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Crombie, John William
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mlets, SGeo
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan

Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A G H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederi'k
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans- (T'rH'm'ts
Gord, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Walford D (Wednesbu'y
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Colonel
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslem, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James

Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Newnes, Sir George
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Peel,Hn.WmRobertWellesley
Hemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W(Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, H. (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. SamuelAlexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Sir S.(Marylebone, W.)
Seely,Charles Hilton(Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith,H.C(North'mb.Tynes'e
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R(North'nts
Spencer,Ernest(W.Bromwich)
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot,RtHn.JG.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas,Abel(Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Col. C. E.
Warner,Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton)
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Whiteley,H(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Williams,RtHnJPowell-(Birm.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wilson-Todd,Wm. H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W.H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Chas. H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Neill, John Gordon Swift
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Minch, Matthews
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, P. J (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, J. (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

And,, it being after ten minutes to Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported to-morrow; Committee to sit again to-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that hehad received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Monmouth Boroughs:—

MONMOUTH ELECTION PETITION.

The Election Petition for the Monmouth Boroughs.

The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868.

The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Acts, 1854–1895.

To the Right Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons.

We, Sir William Raun Kennedy and Sir Charles John Darling, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the rota for the time being for the trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby certify, in pursuance of the said Acts, that, upon the 29th and 30th days of March and 1st and 2nd days of April of this year, we duly held a Court at the Town Hall, Newport, Monmouth, for the trial of, and did try, the Election Petition for the Monmouth Boroughs between Thomas Embrey and Christopher Sweeting, Petitioners, and Frederick Rutherfoord Harris, Respondent.

And, in further pursuance of the said Acts, we report that at the conclusion of the said trial we determined that the said Frederick Rutherfoord Harris, being the Member whose Election and return were complained of in the said Petition, was not duly elected and returned, and that the Election was void on the ground of illegal practices by the said Frederick Rutherfoord Harris and by his agent; and we do hereby certify in writing such our determination to you.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition of illegal practices having been committed at the said Election, we, in further pursuance of the said Acts, report as follows:—

(1) That an illegal practice was proved to have been committed by the said Frederick Rutherfoord Harris, in that he during the said Election, for the purpose of effecting the return of a candidate at such Election, made and published false statements of fact in relation to the personal character and conduct of such candidate.

(2) That the following persons were proved guilty of illegal practices, namely:

Frederick Rutherfoord Harris,
Henry Longstaff,
Reginald Bath Cleaver,
Thomas Jeke.

(3) That although it was proved that illegal practices were committed at the said Election, it was not proved, nor have we reason, upon the evidence before us, to believe that illegal practices extensively prevailed at the said Election.

(4) That the said Frederick Rutherfoord Harris was guilty by his Election agent, Henry Longstaff, of an illegal practice, in that the said Henry Longstaff failed without such authorised excuse as is mentioned in the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, to make a true return respecting the Election expenses of the said Frederick Rutherfoord Harris.

(5) That, in the course of the investigation of the last mentioned charge, it appeared to us that the said Frederick Rutherfoord Harris was by his said Election agent, Henry Longstaff, guilty also of an illegal practice under the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, Section 9, Sub-section 1, in that the said Henry Longstaff induced and procured Thomas Jeke aforesaid to vote at the said Election knowing that he was a person prohibited; but no charge under this section was alleged in the said Petition.

(6) That we have given certificates of indemnity to the several persons whose names are set out in paragraph (2).

A copy of the evidence and of our Judgment, taken by the deputies of the shorthand writer of the House of Commons, accompanies this certificate.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 1901.

WILLIAM RANN KENNEDY.
CHARLES DARLING.

STEAMSHIP COMMUNICATION—GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) rose to call attention to the absence of direct British steamship communication between Great Britain and East Africa; and to move, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under foreign Governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade; and to consider and report upon the political and commercial advantages to be gained by encouraging British steamers to circumnavigate Africa, especially having regard to the East coast, and to report upon the best means of giving them such encouragement." He said: I have been fortunate in the opportunity of raising this subject both in regard to time and to form. So far as the form is concerned it is important, because the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, the Post Office, so far as it deals with the mails, and the Board of Trade are interested; and had I raised the question on the Votes of any one of these offices I should probably have been ruled out of order in respect of what I wished to say regarding the other three, and the House would have missed the importance of the subject through its being argued in driblets. I am fortunate as to the time, because this year the German Government has increased the subsidy to the German East African line of steamers, in order to enable them to go right round Africa, from £45,000 to £67,500. I am also perhaps fortunate in bringing forward this motion, because, with the exceptions of the hon. Member for Bermondsey and the hon. Member for Ormskirk, I believe I am the only Member of the House who has travelled the whole distance along the East Coast of Africa.

There is, I submit, much to inquire into with regard to this subject. It raises many wider issues than it at first sight appears to do. It deals with our trade throughout the world. In mentioning more particularly East Africa I do not want to exclude the question of subsidised lines of foreign steamers in other parts of the world. The North German line is subsidised, and it runs to every continent except America. The Messageries Maritimes line is subsidised, and runs to every continent. The difference between our system of subsidies hitherto—with one exception, which has now been established in the West Indies—and that of foreign Governments has been that we subsidise for value received only, that is for carrying mails, or for obtaining if necessary in time of war the right to seize the best ships of the merchant shipping companies; but foreign Governments subsidise to obtain better ships, better accommodation, and, if necessary, a higher rate of speed, and also to encourage trade and shipbuilding. Therefore I do not wish to confine this subject in any respect solely to East Africa. I have no doubt that many of my hon. friends will be able to adduce evidence of subsidies which have done harm to British trade in various parts of the world; but I have chosen East Africa because I think it is much the gravest case. If you travel to China you can go by the P. and O. Company's steamers, which run in competition with the North German Lloyd and the Messageries Maritimes lines; but if you travel to East Africa there is no line of British steamers by which you can go the whole distance without transhipment. That is a fact which makes a very serious case so far as our trade is concerned. I should like to lay before the House some of the facts and some of the difficulties which our British trade has to encounter. Take our great emporium of Zanzibar. People here, perhaps, do not realise what an important centre of trade that is. To the Indian merchants who come over there it is almost as important as London is to this country, or as New York is to the United States; and if we respect at all the prestige in which the natives of that part of the world are disposed to hold British power, it ought to be one of our primary objects to improve and maintain direct communication with Zanzibar. Statistics show some very remarkable particulars. The tonnage of vessels for 1899 entering Zanzibar—the last figures obtainable—show that there entered into the harbour—German, 168,113 tons, total vessels, 98; British, 103,457 tons, total vessels, 69; French, 26 vessels; Norwegian, 3 vessels; and

United States, 2 vessels. There is no question, therefore, if you measure merely by the tonnage of the ships, that that of foreign ships is greatly in excess of that of the British. But that is not all. We have, as I have suggested, to tranship our goods. The only large British line which runs to Zanzibar is, I believe, the British India, but to get to Zanzibar by the British India from this country you have to change steamers at Aden; and if this is an inconvenience to passengers it is not difficult to understand that the transhipment of cargo is much more serious. The additional risks run by delays all add naturally to the cost of carriage, to say nothing of exposure to the weather and thefts by natives.

Another difficulty arises in respect of passengers. Not unfrequently the plague breaks out at Aden, and supposing a traveller wanted to come home from Zanzibar via Aden, he might be put in quarantine—the only alternative being for him to go the long round-about journey to Bombay and join the P. and O. steamer. It is perfectly obvious that these disadvantages are very great; but, strange to say, both the passenger fares and the freight for cargo are higher by the British than by the French and German lines. The first class fare of the British India steamers—entailing the change at Aden—is £57 15s.; by the German East African line it is only £42 10s., and by the Messageries Maritimes from Marseilles, £40 14s. But the French and German lines have certain advantages in addition. If the traveller happens to be an official, say a consul of any country, he is allowed a rebate on his fare of 10 per cent. on the German East African line and the same for his wife and family, and by the Messageries Maritimes line a rebate of 15 per cent. Therefore, with all these disadvantages it is not surprising that the tonnage of British ships going out to Zanzibar is much below that of foreign vessels, although Zanzibar is the most important British territory on the east coast of Africa.

But I turn to the other ports. The Consular Report respecting the trade of our East Africa Protectorate for 1899 states—

> "A direct line of British steamers between London and Mombasa would go far to stimulate trade in British goods, as importers are strongly adverse to the delays and damages which transhipment entails. The gross registered steam tonnage which entered the port in 1899 was 218,089 tons, represented by 142 steamers. Of this tonnage 90,126 tons was English and 127,963 tons German."

I believe also that American trade, which I am informed is increasing there with considerable rapidity, is carried in German ships almost entirely. Mombasa is not the only place involved. The circumstances also concern Uganda. Mombasa is a port which has a fair chance of almost equalling Zanzibar if the prosperity of Uganda increases. We have over and over again discussed the question of Uganda in this House, but I cannot see the use of all the money and trouble we have expended in connection with the Uganda Railway if we allow foreign ships to carry away all the trade. The Government have on various occasions, I believe, been approached with reference to running British steamers direct to Mombasa. When it was a matter of material being conveyed for the Uganda Railway it was found necessary to charter a steamer at Cardiff, which ran on an average once every six weeks, because it was found impossible to use any of the other British steam ship lines, as transhipment was too serious and rates were too high. Advantageous offers were made to the Government, but the steamer from Cardiff was the arrangement they preferred. When a debate occurred in this House in April, 1899, with reference to the Uganda Railway and the transhipment of railway material, the Secretary of State for War, in his then capacity as Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said there were already six lines of steamers on the east coast of Africa running from England, and that therefore it was quite unnecessary to have a direct British line. When the hon. Member for Kilmarnock Burghs interrupted with the remark that all these steamships went round South Africa my right hon. friend made this rather remarkable statement—

> "Whether they go round the south of Africa or the north of Africa does not matter; so long as they arrive at their destination the Foreign Office is willing to take advantage of them."

I do not think I need comment on that remark. I can only conclude that my right hon. friend's better judgment had on this occasion been swallowed up by his official responsibility. Uganda, with all its prospects of development, seems in itself a sufficient ground for establishing a direct line of British steamers, which could run to Zanzibar and Mozambique. The only Consular Report which does not advocate the establishment of this line is the report with reference to Mozambique, but, after all, Mozambique belongs to Portugal, the whole *hinterland* is Portuguese, and it is not in any sense on the highway to our British possessions. The Consular Report with reference to Mozambique, after mentioning the German East Africa line and the Messageries Maritimes, states that "there is little inducement for other companies to enter into competition as yet"; and this comment, I assume, also applies to another small port, Quilimane, which is still further south, and which also belongs to Portugal. When we come to Chinde, the case is again somewhat different, as it could supply British Central Africa, where there are prospects of coffee, and possibly ivory, indiarubber, and other products, if it were not for the serious obstacle of the bar in the river Zambesi. This does not by any means complete the evidence of the Consular Reports, which urge that the Government should assist direct steamship communication with East Africa. The one dealing with Beira states:—

> "The end of the year 1900 should show a very great increase of trade at this port; the opening of the railway at Salisbury with extensions to Gwelo and Bulawayo, the importation of machinery, the opening up and satisfactory returns from the mining districts of Manica and Rhodesia with the necessary sequence of increase in population, will all materially tend to this result."

If this forecast is true with regard to Beira, I would ask what will the trade be with the Transvaal colony through Delagoa Bay as soon as peace is established? I should like to quote from a letter which I received a few months ago from Sir Arthur Hardinge, when he was still Consul-General at Zanzibar. He writes:—

> "I hope the impetus which the restoration of peace will give to trade with the Transvaal may help to get on an English line direct from home to Lourenco Marques and Durban via Zanzibar."

After all, Lourenco Marques is only fifty-six miles from the Transvaal frontier. The railway transport is very much less than from Cape Town or Port Elizabeth. The distance from Cape Town to the Transvaal frontier is 964 miles, and from Port Elizabeth 663, which compare very markedly with the mileage from Delagoa Bay. From London to Delagoa Bay via Cape Town is only about 600 miles less than from London to Delagoa Bay via Aden. I took the trouble to get figures from the Royal Geographical Society, and they are as follows:—London to Delagoa Bay *via* Aden, 7,794 miles; London to Delagoa Bay via Cape Town, 7,170 miles. I think that is an additional argument in favour of my suggestion that the circumnavigation of Africa is the proper course to pursue. If we get to Delagoa Bay by running down the east coast of Africa we might just as well complete the circuit by calling at our various ports around Africa. The circumnavigation of Africa has been started by the German East Africa Company this year, and with regard to German trade I should like once for all to make it most emphatically clear that I am speaking from a sincere feeling of friendship for Germany, and not from any desire for a hostile or offensive rivalry. I have lived too many months of my life in Germany not to value and highly appreciate German friendship. There is ample room in the whole world for the German and British Empires to exist in perfect accord, and if we do imitate the Germans, it is merely in the spirit of that imitation which is the sincerest form of flattery. The German Imperial Government have this year increased the subsidy to the German East African Company in order that they should continue their line right round Africa. They run a fortnightly service alternately by the east coast and by the west coast, and, in addition, a monthly service, which runs down the East African coast as far as Beira, returning the same way. If they can do that with regard to their territories, and also with regard to ours, I cannot see why we cannot do something of the same kind, thereby benefiting our possessions, from Somaliland to British East Africa and Uganda, Zanzibar, British Central Africa, Natal, and Cape Colony, and returning by the west coast to the advantage of the Niger Territory, the Gold Coast, Ashantee, Sierra Leone, and Gambia, altogether forming a complete connection between our different colonies in Africa, which ought ultimately to be a very useful and profitable commercial enterprise.

I also hope that the Committee, if it is appointed, will bear in mind the question of through bills of lading, by means of which the German Government is endeavouring to attract British trade to German lines. Part of the scheme is the largely reduced rate on the German State Railway—I do not say we could reduce railway freights for through goods here, because without a State railway it is obvious the same agreement might not be arrived at; but I think it is a matter for railway directors to consider in this country should through bills of lading be introduced and found profitable. The through bills of lading and the reduced rates of Germany cause the entire traffic of the Continent to be attracted to the German line. Through connection was made between that line and the Pretoria and Delagoa Bay Railway at particular rates for goods, and now that the country is in our possession, I cannot see what should prevent us from adopting a similar arrangement for the Transvaal trade if it could possibly be concluded. Let me call the attention of the House in substantiation of what I have stated to some of the figures. The purely German goods traffic on the German East Africa line in the year 1891 amounted to £300,900, and in 1898 it amounted to £955,600—an enormous increase in those seven years. If I compare that with the British imports at Zanzibar and Pemba, which may be taken as a means of comparing the relative increase of British and German trade, I find in 1892 (the first year for which figures are obtainable) they amounted to £105,670. In 1898, the year the German line showed such an enormous increase, they only amounted to £114,217. In 1899, they amounted to £113,914, and in 1900 the actual figures are not yet available—but the Board of Trade states them approximately as £76,509. Whether the war has anything to do with that reduction I cannot precisely say, but the figures I have quoted are sufficient to show that our trade has remained practically stationary, while German trade has increased very disproportionately.

Two contrary statements may be argued in respect of these facts. It is alleged that the reason, partly, why German trade seems to have increased so much, is because British goods are shipped to Hamburg for further shipment by German steamers, and though I have tried to obtain figures to show to what extent British goods do go by the German route to East Africa, I have not been able to obtain them except on a very hypothetical basis, but the general belief in well-informed quarters is that these German steamers carry mainly German goods, and that the carriage and imports of German goods have very largely increased. The other contrary statement is made by the shipowners, who say it is a fact that the greater part of the trade between East Africa and this part of the world is not through the United Kingdom but through the continent of Europe. I am disposed to think that this is true. Why? Because the rates of freight are lower and communication more direct, and the subsidies granted to foreign companies enable them to run their steamers at a cheaper rate than we are able to do. How can we expect our trading companies to compete against steamers which are superior in every way, and have so much larger a money reserve? I do not think foreign subsidies are the only cause why our trade has remained stationary and that of Germany has so much increased. I think in part our manufacturers are to blame. They do not take the trouble to find out what class of goods is wanted in any particular part. It is the old story of the Atbara bridge in the Soudan—where it was found the bridge could be made in America just as well and just as cheaply as here, and in the time and on the pattern required, which our manufacturers could not undertake. It applies to small things just as much as to large. If the natives of Zanzibar like a particular kind of calico for clothes there is no reason for supplying them with another kind. When I was in

Natal I went over the plantations of a large tea-grower. He told me that he wanted a number of a particular kind of pruning hook, that he sent the order to England, but that the British manufacturers sent what he did not want, something somewhat more expensive than that which he had ordered, and told him they were not exactly what he asked for, but were much better than what he ordered ; he said that that was not what he wanted, and he gave the order to an American firm and obtained the hook that he required. Mining machinery of a particular pattern is ordered in Johannesburg or Rhodesia from here, and instead of supplying it the manufacturers say they have better patterns than that which the customer has asked for, and that he had better take that. But the customer refuses to accept the machinery, and gives his order to German or American firms, from whom they get the thing they desire. It is no good offering persons goods which they do not want, and it would be much wiser for British manufacturers to establish plant to enable them to make the patterns which are required abroad rather than to continue to manufacture the patterns which are not required. I would suggest also to the Board of Trade whether it would not be possible to establish, not merely a centre of information at the Board of Trade, giving figures, statistics, and illustrations of what particular articles are required for trade in the different parts of the world, but a bureau, such as exists in Germany, to show the actual patterns of the materials wanted, which could be imitated and manufactured here.

Now, this motion concludes by referring to the best means of giving encouragement to the steamship companies. That embraces the whole question, which sooner or later will have to be dealt with, if a remedy for the present state of things is required. There are one or two possibilities, or at any rate suggestions with regard to it. One is that we should grant subsidies on the same system as the foreigners do, and I trust that if the facts justified some intervention of that kind, the jealousy of the companies would not stand in the way of a patriotic purpose if a subsidy were given to one company rather than another. Nor do I think the Treasury objections should stand in the way, as it could not be said that it would be impossible to find the money. What is the object of Germany in granting subsidies?—a policy the more striking because I find from a perusal of the annual report of the German East Africa line that it would not at present pay its way but for the Government subsidy which it receives. In 1899 the shareholders received 6 per cent. dividend. In 1900 the dividend was 8 per cent. But this 8 per cent. was obtained by the distribution of 600,000 marks among the shareholders, and as the Government subsidy was 900,000 marks, it is plain that without the subsidy the company would have been 300,000 marks or £15,000 to the bad. And when it is borne in mind that the receipts for 1900 included a sum of 400,000 marks paid by the British Government for arresting the "Bundesrath," "Herzog," and other steamers of the line on suspicion of contraband which they were not proved to contain, the balance-sheet does not show any very enviable result. The Bill before the Reichsrath advocating the increased subsidy to the German East Africa line contained explanatory statements as to what were the reasons which induced Germany to adopt this policy. Among those reasons is the freeing of German commerce from the agency of foreign nations, both as regards foreign business houses and in shipping matters; the avoidance of damage resulting from transhipment; the possibility of transmitting mails independently of foreign countries; the economic importance of Cape Colony for the development of German commerce; the opening up of harbours of communication with the important territory of the Transvaal Republic in addition to Delagoa Bay; the improvement of merchant ships for transport of troops and for service in time of war; and in general the considerable expansion of German export and import trade.

Whether the German policy is right or wrong is another matter, but by way of showing how anxious the Germans are to push the policy it is interesting to know that quite recently the Germans bought up an English line of steamers, which traded from Bangkok to Singapore, for what was approximately three times its value; and I have no doubt that some of my hon. friends around me could give instances of similar attempts that have been made by the German Government to buy up other lines in the Yangtsze and other parts of the world. Therefore, there is no doubt that they have a very firm belief in the excellence of their methods, and that is why I am anxious that this Select Committee should be granted. The only possible remedy for counteracting the policy of foreign Governments is sometimes said to be that of countervailing duties on foreign ships and cargoes. I will not say I am very much in agreement with that proposal, because I think there are very serious objections to it, but if we are considering the question of remedies it would be an omission on my part if I did not mention that it has been suggested. In such a case there would not be the subsidising of one shipping company as against another, but on the other hand no doubt the colonists would obtain their goods at somewhat higher prices. I do not, however, see any objection to that, because they would obtain the goods at the natural, and not the fictitious, price. But I do see an objection in other respects as regards East Africa, because, although it might be practicable to put on countervailing duties in dealing with a place like India, which is a compact whole, you cannot do it in East Africa, where the coast does not belong solely to us, but also to Germany, Portugal, and other nations. Obviously, if countervailing duties were put on foreign ships and cargoes, there would be a great disposition to smuggle into our possessions, and there would be the even greater misfortune that traders would go away from our possessions, and take up their centre of trade in the places in which these countervailing duties were not levied. But perhaps the most serious opposition with which I may be met is what I may call the free-trade objection. I know perfectly well that when some Members first saw this resolution on the Paper, they had the idea that it involved an infringement of the principles of free trade. I venture to dispute that there is any breach of free-trade principles. I am a free-trader myself, and, that being so, I should not be likely to come forward with a motion of this kind unless I thought there was a very great distinction to be drawn between an infringement of free trade and the present proposal. Consumers throughout the world should be able to buy the best goods at their natural cost in the cheapest market. That is a fundamental doctrine of free trade. But free trade does not aim at bolstering up a fictitious price. If a price is made fictitious by disturbing and extraneous circumstances, free trade is prepared, I imagine, to adopt means to set the matter right, and I do not suppose that in a question of this kind subsidies can be said to be an infringement of free trade, seeing that we are asking only to have set right an arrangement which has upset the principles of free trade. A hostile subsidy disturbs the natural price of goods and creates an inequality, and it does this when equality of competition and exchange between different countries in the articles which they are respectively best able to produce are the very essence and kernel of free trade.

We are not without precedents in this matter. There are recent precedents for the proposal of a subsidy, even as regards ourselves. Before referring to the more recent precedents, I should like to remind the House of what occurred more than fifty years ago, when free-trade doctrines were at their height. It was in 1849 when the first guaranteed railway was established in India. I should like to ask what difference there is between a proposal to subsidise a steamship company and a proposal for the Government to guarantee a particular railway company. In 1849 the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was first established in India, and it was established under a guarantee, and the Act of Parliament which created that guarantee was passed by this House with full knowledge of what was being done. But I need not go so far back as 1849. We have some very recent precedents. There is the subsidy granted to the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service to Jamaica. That subsidy was recommended in 1897 by the Royal Commission which was appointed to inquire into the West Indian trade, and consists of £40,000, half of which is paid by Jamaica. That action was taken in deference to colonial wishes—a very proper reason. This House was disposed at the time to listen to the argument that colonial wishes in such a matter should be respected, and I do not know why they should not be disposed to do the same now. Is not the evidence from the various consular reports to which I have referred sufficient to show what the unanimous opinion of our colonies is? And if we have any desire to respect colonial wishes in this matter, and to cement more closely the different colonies in various parts of the Empire, we have very good precedents for doing so. We have also the precedent of the countervailing duties, which were granted in 1899 in India against foreign sugar bounties. Both these precedents are of some service in favour of the proposal for a Select Committee to inquire into this matter. No doubt the ideal would be to wait until some steamship company to East Africa would pay. That is the ideal, but it will not do in practice, because the figures show that German trade is increasing by leaps and bounds. The German contention is that the cost to the German taxpayer of pushing trade by subsidies is amply repaid in the long run by the vastly increased volume and prosperity of the trade, and I do not stop now to argue whether that policy is right or wrong, but it is certainly a matter for inquiry by this country. German trade is increasing largely everywhere, presumably in part owing to steamship subsidies which are granted. The accommodation provided and the means of transport by their steamers are all exceedingly good, and I could see myself at Zanzibar that the merchants were very much struck by the excellence of these steamers, and they had every intention of retaining their services, and acknowledging in that way that they appreciated them. Merchants are very conservative, and when they have been well served by steamship companies we cannot suppose that they will easily desert them when we find it pays to introduce a steamship company of our own. I would like to urge that it might be worth while to establish as an experiment direct British communication with East Africa for four or five years. If it failed we should profit by the experiment, while if it succeeded it might in the end pay itself, and it would also bring many subsidiary and incidental advantages to our colonies. At any rate, I repeat that it is a matter for inquiry, and I think a strong case is made out for the Select Committee for which I ask. I am very much afraid that some day we shall awaken from our present attitude to find we have made a serious blunder, and that the trade we might have obtained has been permanently and irremediably lost. I beg to move the resolution which stands in my name.

*SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): The hon. Member who has moved this motion has been very lucid and comprehensive in his statement, and therefore my observations need only be of the briefest possible character. He has the great advantage of a personal knowledge of this matter, for he has been in the localities concerned. The reason we ask for a Select Committee upon this question is because there has been a great decline in British trade and shipping in East Africa, and that the decline is so serious and the retrogression so unmistakeable that some inquiry into the contributory causes is imperatively demanded. The figures furnished by my hon. friend who moved this motion seem abundantly to justify the demand for a thorough investigation. The trouble is not, as one would from a superficial examination suppose, to be found in the decline of British commercial intercourse simply with the littoral of East Africa. Our case is not based merely upon a "setback" in the character of our commercial intercourse. Above and beyond these circumstances, untoward as they certainly are, there is the paramount question of the enhancement or diminution of prestige consequent upon the comparative volume and extent of the trade carried on under the flags of the different nations competing for that trade. Prestige in oriental countries is an asset of incalculable value. This is a truism, and what unfortunately is also a truism is that the Government—not necessarily this Government, for both parties are tarred with the same brush —seem to be singularly incapable or unwilling to go adequate lengths in consolidating their prestige in backward countries. I happen to know something of the apathy and langour which invariably creep over public departments when it is a question of taking a broad and statesmanlike view in matters of great public importance. Take, for instance, the question of cable communication, which is a matter of great economic importance to an empire such as ours, with possessions in the four corners of the globe. The case which has been pointed out by my hon. friend is only an illustration of what I have been advancing. Only this afternoon we had a somewhat heated discussion on both sides of the House in regard to the increase in our public expenditure, upon which my hon. friend the Member for North Monmouthshire made a very spirited and eloquent speech. I wish, however, to point out that that speech was not directed against expenditure of a reproductive character such as that at which the motion of my hon. friend contingently aims. I think my hon. friend aims rather at those ill-considered and improvident outlays in which the Governments of both parties are so often involved. What have we been doing in East Africa ever since we dispossessed the British East Africa Company and took over their responsibilities? We have been spending money very freely on the construction of the Uganda Railway. But what earthly use or what possible commercial benefit can accrue from that expenditure if you do not take steps to provide proper feeders for it in the shape of sea-borne commerce? My hon. friend has laid stress upon the importance of considering British influence in East Africa, including Zanzibar, which, valuable as it is from a political aspect, is still more so from its proximity to the Indian Empire. If we desire to have a system communicating with Seychelles, which, as an hon. friend behind me points out, has been discontinued, if the railway is to be conducted on commercial lines and maintained as a going concern, we must see to it that similar facilities to those which are granted with so much foresight, and in anticipation even of any demand for them, by Germany, France, and even Austria, are forthcoming in the case of our own people.

My hon. friend the mover of this resolution also referred to the action of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary. I turn with pleasure to the contemplation of the statesmanlike sagacity displayed by the Colonial Secretary in developing the Colonial possessions of this country. Bitter experience has taught me that you can get nothing in this world unless you keep on pegging away and sometimes making yourself disagreeable all round. We must assume that the Colonial Secretary is a past master in this laborious but sometimes fruitful operation, and he must have plied the Treasury with unswerving persistence to have succeeded in obtaining the substantial subvention for the establishment of a direct line of communication to and from the West Indies. I respectfully invite the President of the Board of Trade to closely imitate the tactics of his masterful colleague the Colonial Secretary. At any rate, the right hon. Gentleman might agree to this Committee, and then endeavour to carry into effect as far as practicable its recommendations. I ask the House if it is not an immense advantage and a tower of strength to this country that it possesses the most powerful mercantile fleets in the world, such as that of the P. and O. Company, which is presided over with so much ability by Sir Thomas Sutherland? My hon. friend foreshadowed some misgivings as to the obstacles which he thought might possibly be raised against the granting of subsidies, and he said that the argument of interfering with free trade principles would probably be thrown at our head. But, swearing fealty as I do to free trade principles, I frankly confess to the House that my allegiance in this respect falls short of a pedantic adherence to those doctrines irrespective of any modification or adaptation to present needs and requirements. We want a real and genuine, and not a spurious and meretricious free trade. At any rate, if foreign Powers are enabled by means of lavish bounties and profuse subsidies to jockey us out of markets to which we have every legitimate claim, then I assert that one of two things must happen—either free trade as it exists and is enforced in this country will have to haul down its colours, or else British shipping and British trade in East Africa will have to go to the wall. I think I have said enough to cause some searchings of heart among those hide-bound doctrinaires, some distinguished representatives of whom I see opposite, who cherish with unceasing and undiscerning faith the doctrines of Mr. Cobden. In conclusion, I implore my right hon. friend to inaugurate the tenure of his office by some generous and substantial boon to British shipping. I cannot conceive why he should refuse the very moderate claims put forward by the mover of this resolution, and in that confident hope and belief I have much pleasure in seconding this motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under foreign Governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade; and to consider and report upon the political and commercial advantages to be gained by encouraging British steamers to circumnavigate Africa, especially having regard to the East coast, and to report upon the best means of giving them such encouragement."—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

*SIR FRANCIS EVANS (Maidstone): I have listened attentively to the various reasons why we should go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask for some assistance to run a line of steamers along the East coast. It is an unfortunate moment to go to the Treasury, and it is a perfectly safe thing to go there now, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer has got a good excuse. I can assure the hon. Member for Aston Manor that I have made as careful a study as is possible of the various ports he has mentioned. The company with which I am connected has run a line first to Zanzibar and then to Beira, but in neither case did the line pay, and, after we had lost a certain number of thousands of pounds, which we thought sufficient to show our good faith as English shipowners, we decided to retire to Delagoa Bay. At that port we have remained and intend to remain, but nothing will stop us from going back to Beira and on to Zanzibar and Mombasa through the Mediterranean the moment it will pay. Frankly, although I like to have Government subsidies when they are freely given, I am against Government subsidies unless very good value to the nation can be shown for them. The moment has not come when any Chancellor of the Exchequer can make a good case for giving a subsidy to a line of steamers passing from Delagoa Bay round by the Red Sea to this country.

The resolution which has been moved provides for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider and report upon the political and commercial advantages to be gained by encouraging British steamers to circumnavigate South Africa. What is the advantage of circumnavigation of that great country? The hon. Member has spoken of these various ports, but apparently he has not had much experience of shareholders who want dividends. If you want to go on a yachting expedition, the hon. Member's proposal is a beautiful scheme. I wish to tell the hon. Member that his case is not supported by the instance of the German East African line, for that line has only just managed to pay a dividend by writing down its capital one-half. It has done this by the aid of subsidies granted by the German Government and in part by the circumstances attaching to the Transvaal war. Why are the German East African line passing down by West Africa now? Because they cannot make the East African line pay. Am I to go to the British Treasury and say *in forma pauperis* that I cannot maintain myself against German competition? No, never. The Germans had a right to go there if they liked. I do not object, but we will meet them on their own ground and struggle with them on their own ground, and I hope that, backed up by the merchants of this country, we shall successfully compete with the Germans wherever we find them. There are a good many practical things which can be done by the Board of Trade to assist us in this matter, and it is the duty of the merchants of this country to demand from the Board of Trade such action as will enable us to expand more rapidly our trade in the various articles manufactured in this country. I believe that a Committee established to inquire as to how we can benefit English trade might do a great deal of good. An Act has been passed called the Merchandise Marks Acts, and I venture to say that it is the most foolish Act which has been passed in my time. It has taken away from this country a large business, which can never be recovered, and this will continue as long as we oblige the German merchants to put upon their goods "Made in Germany." I do not believe the motion of the hon. Member, well conceived as it is in the interest of commerce, would do any good in this case, because you are going to ask a Committee to inquire into that which I may tell the hon. Member I know beforehand to be an impossibility. You cannot make the circumnavigation of Africa a paying trade. If that is the case, why have a Committee to report upon it? I saw the Secretary of State for the Colonies a few years ago, and I said if he wished to develop the trade north of Delagoa Bay a service would be provided if the Government would take part of the risk for a time. I cannot say, much as I should like to receive money for the purpose, I should be in favour of the Government of this country going in that direction. I believe there are as good shipowners in England as elsewhere, but they love money for all that. We would have friends in Liverpool saying "Really, Liverpool ought to have a say in this extension," and showing good reasons why the Treasury should put its hands in its pockets to help Liverpool. I do not believe any of us are going in that direction. I believe Liverpool shipowners are as much against it as I am, and while I may congratulate the hon. Member on the way he has put the case before the House, yet at the same time I cannot believe in its being a useful thing to do. I therefore regret that I cannot support it.

MR. ARTHUR STANLEY (Lancashire, Ormskirk): I must apologise for saying a few words on this question to hon. Gentlemen opposite, and for coming between them and their socialist commonwealth resolution. The only advantage in favour of the resolution now before the House is that the East Coast of Africa does exist, and I have seen it, while the socialist commonwealth does not exist, and I do not believe it ever will exist. If any speech could tell in favour of the motion of my hon. friend the Member for Aston Manor, I think it would be the last speech to which we have listened. I need only take one sentence out of the speech to prove my case. The hon. Member in the name of British shipowners refused in a thoroughly British spirit this offer of assistance. He said he would be perfectly willing to meet other countries on the same footing. Well, that is exactly what we are proposing to do by asking this subsidy. If we get this subsidy he will be able to meet foreign countries on the same footing, and British shipowners will be able to hold their own; but he knows they cannot do so at present because it does not pay. If it did pay, we should not have this motion for a Committee put before the House. I think the only advantage I can claim in speaking on this motion is that I have been down the coast. I do not believe that going through a country in a railway train makes one qualified to speak upon it. There is one thing, however, that can be said about going down the East Coast of Africa, and that is that you are qualified to speak about the ports on the coast. One who has gone down that coast in a small yacht has more than lively recollections of intricate calculations as to whether your coal will hold out to the next port you are likely to reach. The Germans are the people who are competing with us down that coast. I have reason to be grateful to the Germans at Suez. The only charts we had were those lent to us by the German mail steamers, although the charts were fifty years old, and if we had in any sense trusted to them we should inevitably have gone down. But the loan of these charts was well meant. Our own Admiralty may not be superior in all respects, but at any rate they hold their own from the point of view of charts. It is very difficult to realise the extreme importance of the ports along the East Coast of Africa. By navigating the coast it is brought home to one, in a way no map could do, that Africa is a vast continent of enormous wealth, with practically no outlet except one or two ports. I need not go into figures; my hon. friend has dealt with that; but anybody who chooses to look at the figures will see that the Germans are undoubtedly taking the trade from us. We have, at a great deal of cost to ourselves, been maintaining British supremacy in the interior of that country. British supremacy in the interior of Africa is absolutely useless to us unless we maintain British supremacy outside. If we are simply to create trade in the interior of Africa in order that German ships and German firms may profit by it, then I should be the first to say, Better let the Transvaal go to the wall.

As my hon. friends have said, we shall, of course, have the free-trade bogey brought up. We shall be told, "You are advocating protection by advocating this subsidy." First of all I would point out that we are not advocating a subsidy at all. We are simply advocating the appointment of a Committee to consider a subsidy. Secondly, I would point out that this subsidy can in no sense of the word be called protection. It is simply doing what I maintain we have a perfect right to do—putting our own people on an equal footing with the rest of the world, in order to make them better able to compete on their own merits. I hope that my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade will see his way to grant us this Committee. There is only one alteration I would venture to suggest. It seems to me that my hon. friend who moved the resolution has made it a little too comprehensive. His argument dealt only with East Africa, and I think if we confine the resolution to East Africa we shall be doing well. I cannot quite agree with him in thinking that the circumnavigation of Africa is necessary. If he would limit his motion to the words—

> "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under Foreign governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade,"

I believe we should have a better motion, one the House would be more likely to agree with, and one the President of the Board of Trade would be more likely to accept. I earnestly hope that my right hon. friend will accept, if not the whole motion, at all events this amended version of it.

*SIR CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): I think my hon. friend the Member for Aston Manor may congratulate himself on getting a hearing on a question of great importance to the varied interests of this country, and it is not of less importance because it has been brought forward by a private Member. If we were to wait for action on these subjects on the part of any of the Governments we have in this House we should have to wait a very long time. Although any Government may think themselves able to govern this country well, I fail to remember that any Government have dealt with the commercial affairs of this country and taken such an interest in the welfare and preservation of our trade interests in the way the German Government have done with theirs. This resolution calls attention to the British steam communication between Great Britain and East Africa. I cordially agree with what my hon. friend the Member for Maidstone said about this trade. From my knowledge, and I have an intimate knowledge of the trade of Africa, I do not think there is sufficient reason at present to ask for a subsidy for a British line to East African ports. As has been shown this trade is greatly carried by the Germans. I think I can give reasons for that. When the Germans went to Africa it was part of an understanding that they should go through the Suez Canal and to the ports on the East African Coast. They have since extended their service from the south, but to say that British trade in East Africa is neglected is to state, to my mind, what is not the fact. There are six lines of steamers trading to the East African ports. These steamers go as far as Beira regularly, and we should be quite prepared to go further when there are inducements for us to go. I consider that to ask for a subsidy for a line to circumnavigate Africa is entirely out of the question.

But there are other reasons which I shall submit to the House very briefly why we have a right to ask for this committee of inquiry. This question is of great importance to British shipowners, and to the traders and manufacturers of this country. British shipowners are at present greatly handicapped by the steamship subsidies and preferential railway rates granted by the German

Government. Germany first commenced with a subsidised line to Australia. It next subsidised a line to the Far East, and afterwards to Africa. This has led to an enormous increase in the German mercantile fleet, which now includes some of the finest ships in the world. By running these subsidised lines they have encouraged trade in Germany, and now German manufacturers are closely competing with us in our own colonies in consequence of the facilities which these subsidised lines afford. Well, what does the German Government get in return? Not only direct postal facilities, but no doubt the markets for their trade have been very largely increased, so that what the German taxpayer pays in subsidies is very well repaid to him in an increase of his trade. There are the additional national advantages which the Germans have gained by granting these subsidies, the establishment of a large mercantile fleet and a naval reserve in case of war. Now, I have no complaint to make about Germany taking this action. To my mind it is a very wise policy for a large and powerful nation like Germany, with increasing colonies, to provide proper facilities for their communications and the promotion of their trade with their colonies, especially when we remember that within the memory of some of the youngest Members of this House Germany had hardly any mercantile fleet at all. They have now one of the finest mercantile fleets afloat. I do not complain of the Germans putting on these ships and pressing their trade wherever they can; but what I complain of is that they are competing at our ports with British trade under unfair conditions. It is on that ground that I ask the President of the Board of Trade to grant this committee of inquiry. It is a well-known fact that no manufacturer, trader, or shipowner can compete on fair terms when steamers running on the same lines, and manufacturers putting on the market similar articles with our manufacturers are subsidised by an Imperial Government. Supposing a German manufacturer is 200 miles inland from a seaport, and a British manufacturer is the same distance from the port of shipment, the German manufacturer has an advantage in preferential railway rates for his goods. And why? Because the German railways are State railways, and the German Government encourage their manufacturers by giving them cheap rates for their goods to the seaport. English and Scotch manufacturers have not the same advantage, for our railways are private railways, and they cannot get cheap rates. I feel sure that I shall have the sympathy and support of the President of the Board of Trade in this matter, and that he will appoint this Committee. He cannot do anything better to inaugurate his term of office than by giving close attention to the preservation and promotion of our trade throughout the world. I do not advocate subsidies. The maritime supremacy of Great Britain has not been built up on subsidies. I think I may fairly state to the House that the subsidised lines do not represent 5, or at any rate more than 10 per cent. of the shipping tonnage of the United Kingdom. How has that great tonnage, which is very largely privately owned, been created? It has been created by the enterprise and energy of the shipowners of the country, and I do not think that we need fear that that enterprise and energy is at all on the wane. But trade is altering. Once these imperial subsidies are granted and extended it becomes a question whether, if some remedies are not found, we will be able to maintain our supremacy in the future as in the past. Do not the Government owe a great deal to the shipowners and traders of the country? Where would they have been without the large mercantile fleet in the late war? Did they wish that by foreign subsidies and bounties our trade should be taken from us? I think it would be a sad day for this country and the colonies if our trade was diverted from British into foreign ships. I complain that we have not got more support from all Governments in the past. I point to the fact that the Government are shipping from ports in the United Kingdom cargoes under their own control for railways in countries under their own Government—and where the capital largely belongs to the Government—not in British ships, but in foreign bottoms—in steamers subsidised by a foreign Government. I refer to the shipment of stores for the Indian State railways. I do hope my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade will see his way to appoint this Committee, not simply for the purpose of inquiring into direct steamship communication between Great Britain and East Africa, but into the whole question, and I ask my hon. friend to agree to substitute for his motion a shorter one for a Select Committee to inquire into the system of subsidising steamships by foreign Governments and the effect produced on British trade, and to suggest remedies. I claim the support of hon. Members opposite, above and below the gangway. The motion commits them to nothing except obtaining true information for the benefit of the country at large.

Mr. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) said that the population and resources of East Africa did not justify the subsidising of a line of steamers to run there. The population of the entire East Africa was only two and a half millions, scattered thinly over a thousand square miles. In a Report by Sir Arthur Hardinge it was stated that the German merchants trading to East Africa were quite content to get their own money back without any loss. Their principal trade, in the steamers subsidised by the German Government, was a low-class brandy which was sold at 3s. 7½d. per dozen imperial quarts, and a low-class whisky which sold at 5s. 6d. per dozen imperial quarts. That vile stuff was thrown at the unfortunate savages in Jubaland and other countries in East Africa. No wonder there were disturbances and fighting. If his voice could reach these savages he should recommend them to purchase a large quantity of dynamite, and use it to blow up the German steamers which carried that vile whisky and brandy. He hoped the House would refuse to assent to the appointment of this Committee.

*Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I think the motion before the House should be modified in the sense suggested by the hon. Member for Barrow-in-Furness. We are indebted to my hon. friend the Member for Aston Manor for the very practical and suggestive address in which he brought this subject before the House. He has shown conclusively how British shipping may be injured by the bounty system of foreign Governments. All those who support the motion do not support the granting of bounties in this country. There is nothing about bounties in the motion. All we want is inquiry. The hon. Member for Maidstone has reminded us that the British shipowner is a very independent man, and does not want to be bolstered up by the Government. He is quite content to hold his own by his own ability against all competitors, provided he has a fair field and no favour. But when foreign Governments come behind their shipowners and support them with all the influence and wealth of the State, then the case is entirely different. It becomes an unequal and unfair contest between the British and the foreign shipowners. I further wish to say that the foreign bounty system, as regards shipping, is increasing to a most alarming extent, and I think the mind of the country requires to be aroused upon this question. May I refer, for the sake of illustration, to the West Indian sugar trade? There is a trade which has been killed by the foreign bounty system. What is to prevent that system being turned first to one and then to another of our industries, each being attacked in turn and ruined? In 1895 the Board of Trade published a Report on the subsidies given by foreign nations. There are three kinds of subsidies. First, there is the mail subsidy; there is no kind of bounty in that at all; it is simply a payment for services rendered. Such subsidies are given by every maritime State. The second kind is a subsidy on construction. A bounty of this character is given by three States—France, Italy, and Hungary, which pay so much for every ton of every vessel built in the ports of the respective countries. The third kind of subsidy is that which is a simple encouragement—a bounty pure and simple—and that is given by six States—namely, France, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Russia, and Sweden and Norway. That was in 1895, and I understand the Board of Trade are now collecting statistics of the subsidies given at the present time. Those particulars have, however, to a large extent been obtained unofficially, and the figures show that vast increases in subsidies have taken place during the last five years. In Great Britain they have increased, in round figures, from £592,000 to £764,000 (that is not any increase in remuneration, but simply an increase in the amount of business done); United States, from £167,000 to £357,000; Germany, from £249,000 to £389,000; Italy, from £70,000 to £449,000; France, from £420,000 to £1,766,000; and Japan appears for the first time in any figures with subsidies amounting to £710,000. A subsidy Bill is before the United States Congress at the present time, which, if carried, will have the effect of enormously increasing the subsidies granted.

I would also draw the attention of the House to the sums paid to particular lines. The Nord-Deutsche Lloyd, £279,000 per year; the International Navigation Company, £158,000; the Cie Generale Transatlantique, £446,000; Messageries Maritimes, £554,000; Navigazione Generale, £380,000. What is paid to our lines which compete with those I have named? The White Star and Cunard together get only £126,000; the P. and O., in one service, £243,000; and in another, with the Orient, £167,000. These figures are sufficient to show how extensively handicapped the British shipowner is by the foreign subsidies. What are the effects? One result is a diminution in the number of British fast steamers of high speed. Some years ago we had five lines of "express" steamers, whereas now we have only two. The reason is that shipowners cannot afford to run these very fast vessels for commercial purposes alone, and the result has been that the blue ribbon of the Atlantic has been wrested from this country by Germany. That result may be considered a sentimental one, but there are many proofs of the great loss, not only as regards our shipping trade, but also with regard to our commerce and mercantile trade, which has followed the application of the foreign bounty system, because, as a general rule, it may be taken that the trade follows the flag. As showing the views of British shipowners upon this subject, I should like to read a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Chamber of Shipping, namely—

> "That the urgent attention of His Majesty's Government be directed to the question of foreign bounties on shipping, and especially to the development of the question which has taken place in foreign countries, whereby the interests of the British Mercantile Marine are seriously threatened."

That is the view of shipowners through their association. The question is, how is this position to be met? We are not here to-night to prescribe any particular method of dealing with the matter. It may be met, of course, by countervailing duties, or by counter-subsidy; but that is only one way of dealing with the question. In many respects by our own Government foreign shipping is placed in a preferential position as regards our own shipping. For instance, foreign Governments provide at their own expense very large dock and harbour works for the use of shipping, which in this country are provided mostly by local effort, and have to be paid for by shipping. Foreign Governments to a large extent light their coasts free of charge, whereas the entire cost of lighting our coasts has to be borne by the British shipowner. Even our Navy, which uses those lights, does not pay a penny towards the cost. Then there is the question of the load-line. The British shipper loading in a British port can load only up to a certain line. The foreign shipper is free to load to any extent, the only restriction being that the ship must not be, in the opinion of the Board of Trade, unseaworthy. In point of fact, the test is not applied, and foreign ships are never stopped by the Board of Trade on account of unseaworthiness; so that foreign shipowners have a free hand in the matter, whereas the British shipowner is strictly bound by the load-line imposed by the Board of Trade. Then there are other restrictions by regulations on the British shipowner. He has to carry life-saving apparatus, to have a certain weight of crew's provisions, and is bound by regulations as to passengers, whereas the foreign shipowner is free from all these regulations. I think it is a great hardship that ships of the North German Lloyd's should be allowed to come to Southampton and take passengers without complying in any way with our statutory regulations.

Therefore, I say there is ample scope for this inquiry, and I heartily support the resolution, more particularly as modified by the hon. Member for Barrow-in-Furness. It is a mistake to lay too much stress on East Africa. Of course, we believe that in time to come it will be a very important centre of trade, but at present it has not that character, and there are many other parts of the world which are much more important to shipowners and merchants than East Africa. I say that the subject is a general one, and should be looked at from a general standpoint. Therefore, I hope the House will pass this resolution in some form; I should like to see it amended, but I would rather have it as it is than not at all; and I hope in the interests of commerce and shipping the President of the Board of Trade will see his way to appoint this Committee, which can do no harm, and may do a great deal of good.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put"; but Mr. Speaker withheld his consent, and declined then to put that Question.

Debate resumed.

Mr. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): The hon. Member who has just spoken stated that there is nothing in the motion before the House with reference to subsidies, but the whole of the debate has been directed to showing that the ship-owning industry is injured by the subsidies granted by foreign governments, and the speech of the hon. Member for the Ormskirk Division of Lancashire was wholly devoted to the fact that the German Government give subsidies to certain steamers running to East Africa. His argument was that because the German Government did this the British Government should do the same. Earlier this afternoon we listened to many speakers who told us that our expenditure was rising tremendously, and that the first thing we ought to do was to see in what way we could economise. Now, only a few hours later, the hon. Member comes down and says that the first thing we ought to do is to expend more money in subsidising—what? An industry which is decaying? An industry which is not prosperous? No. On the contrary, we are asked to subsidise an industry which has been more prosperous during the last three years than during the fifteen years previous. If we are to subsidise the shipping industry because the German or any other Government subsidise their shipping industry, there are other trades and interests which are subsidised by foreign countries, and why should we not subsidise those also? Where are you going to draw the line? Why should you select an industry which is extremely flourishing, and say that the taxpayers should contribute towards subsidising that particular industry and no other?

*Sir CHARLES CAYZER: There is no question of subsidies before the House now that my proposal to alter the resolution has been accepted by the hon. Member who moved it.

Mr. BANBURY: No, but the whole of the speeches of the hon. Member who moved for the inquiry and of the hon. Member for the Exchange Division of Liverpool were devoted to showing the difficulties with which the British shipowner is met because he has to compete with foreign shipowners who are subsidised by their respective governments; and the hon. Member for the Exchange Division read out a long list of the subsidies which were given.

*Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR: I think I must correct my hon. friend if he will allow me. I objected to foreign subsidies, and I certainly do not support British subsidies.

Mr. BANBURY: If that is so, though we have had an extremely interesting discussion, we might have been talking about something else. I should like to say a word upon the point of view of the German Government. The German Government and nation have a very small shipping industry, and it is natural that they should wish to encourage that industry. We have a very large shipping industry, and we do not want any particular encouragement. The hon. Member opposite said quite truly that he was prepared to face any opposition provided he could make the trade pay, and that really is the secret of the whole matter. What this motion seeks to do is to make the Government find dividends for shareholders in ships, whereas I hope with my hon. friend opposite that shipowners will in the future, as they have done in the past, compete with their own industry and perseverance. My hon. friend said that the Indian guaranteed railways were a precedent for subsidies being granted to shipowners. I think he hardly understands the conditions under which the Indian railways have been guaranteed by the State. In the first place, they have been guaranteed on the understanding that the whole of the first net profits go to the State until the guarantee is fulfilled. Then in the majority of instances the railways revert to the State after a given period. I do not know that shipowners want their ships to revert to the State in consideration of receiving a subsidy. I am sorry to have occupied the time of the House, but I sincerely hope that, as the hon. Member says he does not want any subsidies, there will not be any inquiry.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): My hon. friend has raised a very interesting question, and we have listened to some excellent speeches. I gladly acknowledge the great care my hon. friend has bestowed on his case and the evident knowledge of his subject, partly derived from personal experience, he has exhibited. He devoted his speech principally to the absence of direct steamship communication with East Africa, and, so far as I was able to check them, I have no complaint to make of the accuracy of his statements. Undoubtedly it is a fact that, whereas both Germany and France have provided by means of subsidies direct services between Europe and East Africa *via* the Suez Canal, no such British service exists at the present time. I ought further to add that the Foreign Office are now considering the question of a subsidy to a steamship company for the establishment of a direct service between this country and Zanzibar. That, perhaps, is a reason that will satisfy my hon. friend if the Government decline to accept his motion in the form in which it appears on the Paper. It will be, I think, undesirable to appoint a Committee "to consider and report upon the political and commercial advantages to be gained by encouraging British steamers to circumnavigate Africa, especially having regard to the East coast," at the very time when the subject is actually under the consideration of a department of Government. But I have no objection to consent to the first part of the motion, namely, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under foreign Governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade." That, however, would be a perfectly general inquiry, not an inquiry limited, as my hon. friend proposes, to steamship lines in connection with Africa, and especially East Africa. There is a further reason I would urge on the House why we should not entrust a Committee with the consideration of the political and commercial advantages to be gained by encouraging British steamers to circumnavigate Africa, especially having regard to the East coast, and the duty of reporting upon the best means of giving them such encouragement, and the reason is this. I think my hon. friend will admit that when he speaks of encouragement to British steamship services, what he means is encouragement by means of subsidies. One or two Members who have spoken this evening suggested that there is nothing in the resolution in reference to bounties, but I am afraid I cannot altogether agree to that. It is perfectly true that they are not directly mentioned, but my hon. friend will admit that, when he speaks of "encouragement," we can only interpret it as meaning by subsidies. Now, subsidies given by foreign Governments are of various kinds, and the hon. Member for the Exchange Division of Liverpool has referred to them. There is a direct navigation bounty given by France, Italy, and other countries, but I cannot imagine that will be suggested for our enormous mercantile marine. Such a bounty would certainly result in emptying our Treasury. Then there are indirect bounties, which are given through the granting of reduced rates on State railways for goods which are being exported by particular lines of vessels. Here, again, as railways in this country are not in our hands, it is not in our power, even if it were desirable, to adopt that form of bounty. I take it that the subsidies given to the German Steamship Company and to the Messageries Maritimes are nominally for services rendered, but are in reality in the nature of bounties. Then there are what may be called legitimate subsidies, which are given for services rendered, and represent the value of such services. It is these subsidies, and these alone, which have been given to steamship lines in this country. That being so, I think the House will see that if the obvious suggestion contained in my hon. friend's motion, it would practically mean the acceptance on the part of the House of the idea that steamship companies in this country should be assisted by means of subsidies, which would really be bounties. That has never been done.

I do not wish to deal with the subject pedantically. I do not suggest that under no circumstances would it be justifiable to give bounties, but it is a matter which the House itself should decide, and which should not be referred to a Select Committee. The case of Jamaica is unique, and cannot be quoted as a precedent. The subsidy given to the Elder, Dempster line for services rendered to Jamaica is not a subsidy to that line, but a subsidy to Jamaica. It is an eleemosynary gift to that colony, and was the result of an inquiry by a Commission appointed to inquire into the condition of the West Indies, which seemed to demand some assistance from this country. This recommendation was made by the Commission, and it was carried out by the Government. The question is whether you will look at this matter from the point of view of the British shipping trade or that of a particular colony which it is desired to benefit. The hon. Member for Aston Manor referred to the German service to Africa. I will give the House a proof that the German service is subsidised entirely from the point of view of German commerce and shipping, and not from the point of view of German colonies. The proof is that while the German service calls at all the important English ports, it does not call at the German South-west African colony at all. That shows that the German companies have not got the interests of the German colonies at heart. In the case of Jamaica, we look at it not from the point of view of British commerce, but from the point of view of Jamaica. If we had not given a subvention in that form we should have had to have given it in another. I have now explained why I am unable to assent to the second part of the reference to the proposed Committee, but I have no objection to the first part. I am aware that this is a subject on which grave apprehensions are entertained. This inquiry may be of service if it proves—as I am disposed to think it will—that the fears entertained on the subject are exaggerated. If, on the other hand, those fears are well founded, it is important that we should know exactly where we stand.

*Mr. EVELYN CECIL: I am quite willing to accept the alteration of the motion suggested by my right hon. friend.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I suppose it would be in accordance with what the Government has agreed to, if I moved to leave out all the words after "trade."

Mr. WOLFF (Belfast, E.): I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed, "To leave out all the words after the word 'trade' to the end of the question."—*Sir James Fergusson*); agreed to.

Main question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the system of subsidies to steamship companies under Foreign Governments, and the effect thereby produced on British trade.

SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I rise to move the motion that stands in my name. After the discussion to which we have just listened, in which one section of the community has claimed support from the State, and shown that German steamship lines have an advantage over British lines because they are subsidised by the State, I trust the House will listen to the logical outcome of these arguments. I make no apology for bringing the question of Socialism before the House of Commons. It has long commanded the attention of the best minds in the country. It is a growing force in the thought of the world, and whether men agree or disagree with it, they have to reckon with it, and may as well begin by understanding it. In the German Empire Socialism is the one section of political thought which is making headway, and to an extent which is, I believe, alarming the powers that be. Over fifty Socialist members occupy seats in the German Reichstag, between forty and fifty in the Chamber of Deputies in France, and between thirty and forty in the Belgian Parliament. Socialism on the Continent therefore is an established and recognised fact so far as its entry into politics is concerned, and if it be argued that while that may be true of the Continent it is not true of this country, I reply that the facts and conditions now existing in this country are such as to make it extremely probable that the progress of Socialism in this country will be at a more rapid pace than in any other country in Europe.

Needless to say at this hour of the evening it is impossible for me to treat this subject adequately, and I will therefore summarise briefly the principal arguments that it was my intention to submit to the House had time permitted, I begin by pointing out that the growth of our national wealth instead of bringing comfort to the masses of the people is imposing additional burdens on them. We are told on high authority that some three hundred years ago the total wealth of the English nation was a hundred millions sterling. At the beginning of the last century it had increased to two thousand millions, and this year it is estimated to be thirteen thousand millions. While our population during the last century increased three and a half times, the wealth of the community increased over six times. But one factor in our national life remained with us all through the century, and is with us still, and that is that at the bottom of the social scale there is a mass of poverty and misery equal in magnitude to that which obtained 100 years ago. I submit that the true test of progress is not the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, but the elevation of a people as a whole. I admit frankly that a considerable improvement was made in the condition of the working people during the last century. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the nation industrially was sick almost unto death. It was at that time passing from the old system of handicraft, under which every man was his own employer and his own capitalist, and traded direct with his customer, to the factory system which the introduction of machinery brought into existence. During these hundred years the wealth of the nation accumulated, and the condition of the working classes as compared with the early years of the century improved, but I respectfully submit to the House that there was more happiness, more comfort and more independence before machinery began to accumulate wealth. [AN HON. MEMBER: No.] "No" is not an argument. I ask hon. Gentlemen opposite to listen, and refute my statements if they are incorrect. I will quote an authority on this point whose words deserve respect, I mean the late Professor Thorold Rogers, who supports that view in his "Six Centuries of Work and Wages." The high standard of comfort reached by the labouring classes at the end of the last century has not brought them that happiness which obtained in England three hundred years ago, when there was no machinery, no large capitalists, no private property in land, as we know it to-day, and when every person had the right to use the land for the purpose producing food for himself and his family. I said that an improvement was made during the last century, but I would qualify that statement in this respect—that practically the whole of that improvement was made during the first seventy-five years. During the last quarter of the century the condition of the working classes has been practically stationary. There have been slight increases of wages here and reductions of hours there, but the landlord with his increased rent has more than absorbed any advantage that may have been gained. I could quote figures, if that statement is disputed, showing that in all the industrial parts of the country rents during the past twenty years have been going up by leaps and bounds. I will refer to one authority whom even hon. Gentlemen opposite will not dare to call into question, Viscount Goschen, when First Lord of the Admiralty, in defending the Government for refusing to give increased wages to labourers at Woolwich Arsenal, said on 14th April, 1899—

> "If the position of the labourers at Woolwich and Deptford was as described, it was rather due to sweating landlords than to the rate of wages. The wages had been raised 20 per cent. in the last ten years, and the house rents 50 per cent. It was constantly the case in those districts that the increase of wages only led to a larger sum going into the pockets of the landlords, and he was even told that some of the men who were locally the loudest in the cry for justice to the labourers were owners of cottage property, who would benefit if the wages were raised."

In view of a statement of that kind, made by such an authority, I submit that my assertions is not without substance.

I come now to the causes which have forced thinking people of all ranks of society to reconsider their attitude towards socialism. I refer particularly to the great and alarming growth of what are known as trusts and syndicates in connection with industry. We have hitherto been accustomed to regard a trust as a distinctively American product. That cannot be said any longer. Let me name a few of the trusts and combinations which have been formed in this country within recent years. Amongst others there are the Cotton Thread Trust, with a capital of £9,750,000; the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers, with a capital of over £5,000,000; the Bradford Dyers, £3,750,000; the Bleachers' and Calico Printers' Association, £14,000,000; Cory and Co., London, £2,600,000; Rickett and Co., London, £900,000; Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., engineers, over £4,000,000; the Associated Cement Makers, over £7,000,000; the well-known Castle Line, £2,000,000; the Wilson, Furness, and Leyland and the Leyland Line, between them, £3,450,000. These are figures which might well give the House of Commons pause, and cause it to reconsider its attitude towards the whole question of political economy. So long as industry is conducted by individuals competing one with another there is a chance of the article produced being supplied at an approximation to its market value, but competition has been found to be destructive of the interests of the owners and possessors of capital in this as in every other country. Three or four firms which formerly entered one market and competed with each other find it conducive to their interests to combine, thereby creating a monopoly which enables them to charge whatever price they like, and to treat their workpeople in any way that seems good to them. I approach this question of trusts from two points of view: first, from that of the consumer, who is at the mercy of an uncontrolled and, it may be, perfectly unscrupulous combination which cares only for dividends; and, secondly—and this is to me of greater concern—from that of the worker. The consumer may protect himself, but the worker is helpless. I could quote instance after instance of the most scandalous and shameless persecution of workmen by these big trusts and combinations, railway monopolies and the like. I will refer only to one case, which occurred last year in connection with the Great Eastern Railway. An employee was elected to serve on the Poplar Borough Council, exercising a right conferred upon him by this House, and being elected to a body created by this House. He was dismissed from his employment because he had permitted himself to be elected to apply a part of his own time to the public welfare without having obtained the leave of his employers. As John Stuart Mill—himself a convert to socialism, despite the fact that as a political economist of the older school he had written against the system before he understood its full meaning and the necessity for it—wrote—

> "The social problem of the future we [referring to himself and his wife] consider to be how to unite the greatest liberty of action with a common ownership in the raw material of the globe and an equal participation in all the benefits of combined labour."

We are rapidly approaching a point when the nation will be called upon to decide between an uncontrolled monoply, conducted for the benefit and in the interests of its principal shareholders, and a monopoly owned, controlled, and manipulated by the State in the interests of the nation as a whole. I do not require to go far afield for arguments to support that part of my statement concerning the danger which the aggregation of wealth in a few hands is bringing upon us. This House and the British nation knows to their cost the danger which comes from allowing men to grow rich and permitting them to use their wealth to corrupt the press, to silence the pulpit, to degrade our national life, and to bring reproach and shame upon a great people, in order that a few unscrupulous scoundrels might be able to add to their ill-gotten gains. The war in South Africa is a millionaires' war. Our troubles in China are due to the desire of the capitalists to exploit the people of that country as they would fain exploit the people of South Africa. Much of the jealousy and bad blood existing between this country and France is traceable to the fact that we went to war in Egypt to suppress a popular uprising, seeking freedom for the people in order that the interest of our bondholders might be secured. Socialism, by placing land and the instruments of production in the hands of the community, eliminates only the idle, useless class at both ends of the scale. Half a million of the people of this country benefit by the present system; the remaining millions of toilers and business men do not. The pursuit of wealth corrupts the manhood of men. We are called upon at the beginning of the twentieth century to decide the question propounded in the Sermon on the Mount as to whether or not we will worship God or Mammon. The present day is a mammon-worshipping age. Socialism proposes to dethrone the brute-god Mammon and to lift humanity into

its place. I beg to submit in this very imperfect fashion the resolution on the Paper, merely premising that the last has not been heard of the Socialist movement either in the country or on the floor of this House, but that, just as sure as Radicalism democratised the system of Government politically in the last century so will Socialism democratise the country industrially during the century upon which we have just entered. I beg to move.

MR. BELL (Derby): I formally second the resolution.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, considering the increasing burden which the private ownership of land and capital is imposing upon the industrious and useful classes of the community, the poverty and destitution and general moral and physical deterioration resulting from a competitive system of wealth production which aims primarily at profit making, the alarming growth of trusts and syndicates able by reason of their great wealth to influence Governments and plunge peaceful Nations into war to serve their interests, this House is of opinion that such a condition of affairs constitute a menace to the well-being of the Realm, and calls for legislation designed to remedy the same by inaugurating a Socialist Commonwealth founded upon the common ownership of land and capital, production for use and not for profit, and equality of opportunity for every citizen."—(*Mr. Keir Hardie, Merthyr Tydvil.*)

MR. BANBURY: Assuming this subject is worth speaking upon at all, the twenty-five minutes which have been devoted to the question are hardly sufficient to inaugurate a socialistic commonwealth. The hon. Member who proposed the resolution, speaking of the Associated Cement Makers, and using this as an argument against trusts, said that——

It being midnight the debate stood adjourned.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 24th April, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [Lords.].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [Lords.].

Read a second time, and committed.

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Petition from Aberfeldy, in favour of re-enactment; to lie upon the Table.

COAL.

Petition from Cardiff, against proposed Customs Export Duty; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Nunnery (No. 1); Treeton; Poynton; Waverley; Park Lane; Ashton Moss; Bagworth; Oakwell; Cardenden; Halbeath and Kingseat; Balgonie; Westfield; Lumphinnans; Lassodie; Windygates; Rosebank; Methilhill; West Wemyss; Crossgates; Kelty; Lochore; Donibristle; Ashton Field; Trencherbone; Mosley Common; Ayr; Walkden and Swinton; Ellesmere; Wheat Sheaf (No. 1); Linsayshaw; and Burnley Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Burnley; and Grimsby; to lie upon the Table.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS BILL.

Petition from the Sanitary Institute, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Brighton and Preston; Oldham; and Hastings; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against; from Lleyn; West Retford; Lewisham (two); Lee (three); Blackheath; Swaffham (two); and Oban; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour from Onllwyn; Trencherbone; International; Ashton Field; Manor Pit; Kearsley; Mosley Common; Ayr; Walkden and Swinton; Lennytham; Wheatsheaf; Pendlebury; Wheat Sheaf (No. 1); Ellesmere; Bank Hall; and Burney Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition of Royal, Parliamentary, and Police Burghs of Scotland, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, against; to lie upon the Table.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION BILL.

Petition of Sanitary Institute, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Bedminster; Grampound Road; Dudley; and Paignton; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against, from Chesham (two); Gainsborough; Forest of Dean; Ryhope Colliery; Buxton; Preston; and Ashton under Lyne; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Goole; Swinton; Nunhead; Small Heath;

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Glossop; Whaley Bridge; Furness Vale; Birch Vale; Thornsett; New Mills; Chorley; Barton upon Irwell; Brighton (thirteen); Hove; Preston Park; Llantrissant; Fleetwood; Ellesmere; Little Hulton; Ilfracombe; Dunfermline; Islington; Edinburgh; Saint Pancras; and Heywood; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Falkirk; Greenock; Carluke; Cromarty; East Kilbride; Barvas; Hamilton; Kirkwall; King Edward; Auchterless; and Ardnamwicham; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petition from Alloa, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 31st March, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Account presented, of the Gross Public Income and Expenditure in the year ended 31st March, 1901, together with the Balances in the Exchequer at the commencement and at the termination of the year, and the Amounts received into or issued from the Exchequer in respect of Funded and Unfunded Debt created or redeemed in the said year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 134.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Controverted elections (further return).—Copy of Minutes of Evidence and Judgment in the Monmouth Election Trial [ordered 22nd February]; *Mr. Attorney General*].

SALE OF INTOXICANTS (REFUSAL OF LICENCES).

Order [22nd April] for an Address for a Return relative thereto read, and discharged; and instead thereof:—

Intoxicating Liquors Licences Refused. —Address for "Return of the Number of Victuallers' Beerhouse, and other Licences for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors, the Renewal of which has been refused, in the year 1900, by the Justices of the Peace in each Licensing District in England and Wales, showing in each case the ground of such refusal, especially when such ground was in any instance that the Licence was not required; and showing also the Result of Appeal, if any (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 335, of Session 1899)."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

[SECOND READING]

Order for Second Reading read.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): In asking the House to read this Bill a second time it will not be necessary for me to make a very long statement, because similar measures have been frequently debated both in this House and in another place, and very often passed, although, unfortunately, not simultaneously in both Houses. I also feel myself somewhat in the same position as Mr. Bright, when he made the only speech he ever delivered in this House in support of the proposal, stating that though he had frequently voted for it he had never before spoken in favour of it, because he had never heard any arguments against it which required answering. I am very sorry that the course of obstruction, which is the only thing we have to fear, should have begun so early, and I cannot help feeling that it was hardly generous on the part of the noble Lord to try to stop the consideration of the Bill by a count.

Although hon. Members are probably well acquainted with the measure, it will be as well, perhaps, to give a short history of the question. Without going back to the Levitical time, I may point out that up to the time of Henry VIII.

marriage within certain degrees of affinity was prohibited by the Church, but dispensations were granted by the authority of the Pope. In the reign of Henry VIII. the first Act on the subject was passed—namely, 32 Henry VIII., cap. 38. That measure was passed, as Bills on this subject always have been passed, not for the good of the country, or on religious or social grounds, but simply for personal reasons. By this Bill it was enacted that—

> "All and every such marriages, as within the Church of England shall be contracted between lawful persons, as by this Act we declare all persons to be lawful that be not prohibited by God's law to marry, shall be by authority of these present deemed, judged, and taken to be lawful, good, just, and indisputable. . . . . And that no reservation or prohibition, God's law except, shall trouble or impeach any marriage without the Levitical degrees."

After this time marriages within prohibited degrees were only voidable, and validity could not be questioned, if the marriages were not pronounced null and void by a competent ecclesiastical tribunal during the lifetime of both parties. This state of the law continued until 1835, when Lord Lyndhurst's Act was passed, and passed under circumstances upon which we cannot look back without shame. It was passed in the same way as the Act of Henry VIII., for purely personal reasons, and the object of the Bill was contained in the first clause—namely—

> "All marriages which shall have been celebrated before the passing of this Act between persons being within the prohibited degrees of affinity shall not hereafter be annulled from that cause by any sentence of the Ecclesiastical Courts."

The object of the Act was to make a particular prohibited marriage lawful. A further proviso was that—

> "Nothing hereinbefore enacted shall affect marriages between persons being within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity."

So that the difference between affinity and consanguinity was recognised by that measure. There was a certain amount of opposition to the Bill passing into law, in order to get rid of which a concession was made declaring future marriages void. That clause was struck out in the Commons, but re-inserted in the Lords. The measure came back to this House late in the session, and hon. Members know what occurs under such circumstances. The Bill was passed with an undertaking that the limitation should be removed in the succeeding year. That promise has never been fulfilled. The limitation was—

> "That all marriages which shall hereafter be celebrated between persons within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity or affinity shall be absolutely null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever."

That Act did not extend to Scotland, and I believe that even to this day the law in Scotland is uncertain.

But what are these prohibited degrees? They are decided simply by a table issued in 1563 by Archbishop Parker, who issued it first in his own diocese, and recommended, I believe, that it should be pasted on church doors throughout the country. That table was never confirmed by the Synod of the Church, and it never had the authority of Parliament. It was, I believe, in opposition to the opinions of a much greater ecclesiastic than Archbishop Parker, namely, Bishop Jewell, and has simply been added to the Prayer-book, just as an advertisement is added to the flyleaf of any book. Moreover, you will not find that table of prohibited degrees in the authoritative copy of the Prayer-book which is preserved at Lambeth Palace. Since Lord Lyndhurst's Act was passed there have been incessant efforts to obtain a settlement. The Bill has been passed six times in this House, and once in the House of Lords. The first Bill was introduced in 1841, and since then the proposal has met with varying success, but I think I may say that, while the feeling of the country has always been in favour of the Bill, the feeling in the two Houses of Parliament has become gradually more and more in favour of it. When the Bill was presented in 1879, a petition, signed by a great many farmers in the county of Buckinghamshire, was presented by the late Lord Beaconsfield, while a still more numerously signed petition was presented by the Prince of Wales, who, as he presented it, stated his firm conviction that the Bill, if passed, would be for the advantage of the community at large. The feeling in favour of the Bill grew year by year in the House of Lords—the body which had hitherto been the chief obstacle to its becoming law. In 1882 it was rejected by four only, there being a majority of lay peers in its favour. In 1883 it was read a second time by seven votes, and defeated by only five votes on the Third Reading. The Bill has been passed several times in this House, but the fortune of the ballot has prevented it being introduced since 1891. In 1890 it was read a second time by 222 against 155, and, in the following year, by 202 against 155. The whole of a day was subsequently spent in divisions on Amendments, all of which were defeated by large majorities, but, owing to persistent obstruction, the Bill had to be withdrawn. Hon. Members may remember that in 1896 the Bill was brought forward in the House of Lords, where it was read a second time by 142 to 113, a third time by 142 to 104, and passed, but, of course, it was blocked when it came to this House.

I come now to the Amendment of the hon. Member for West Bradford which proposes the appointment of a Royal Commission. This House and the country are sick of Royal Commissions, and I believe they are sick of the obstruction of this Bill by dilatory motions. I am sure the House will not assent to the putting off of this subject once more by the appointment of a roving Commission to inquire into the question of the marriage laws as it affects the United Kingdom and the self-governing dependencies of the Crown. We have all the knowledge we can possibly want on the subject. I would like to refer hon. Members to the Report of the Royal Commission of 1847, which was presided over by Bishop Lonsdale. The Commission went very thoroughly into the subject, and the Report contained very instructive and overwhelming evidence in favour of this proposal. Among other circumstances I may point out that inquiries were made in certain selected districts to ascertain the proportion of marriages, and it was found that out of 1,364 prohibited marriages nine-tenths were with the deceased wife's sister. That, I think, disposes of the Amendment of the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich—

> "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to extend the Bill to the legalising of marriage with a deceased wife's daughter and a deceased wife niece"—

because it shows there is no great necessity for that legislation. But the fact of the noble Lord desiring to move that Amendment shows his sincerity in opposing the Bill. The Report also says that eighty-eight such marriages had been prevented, and out of those eighty-eight there were thirty-two cases in which the parties who were prevented from marrying lived together. That is one of the very great evils of the present state of the law, that it permits an immoral man, under the pretence of marriage, to live with his deceased wife's sister and to desert her whenever he thinks fit. The conclusion of the Commission was that—

> "On a review of the subject in all these different bearings and effects, we are constrained not only to express our belief that the Act of William IV. has failed to attain its object, but also to express our doubt whether any measure of a prohibitory character would be effective. These marriages take place when a concurrence of circumstances give rise to mutual attachment: they are not dependent on legislation."

The Commissioners add—

> "We are not inclined to think that such attachments would be extensively increased in number were the law to permit them."

I think the House will agree that it is not necessary to appoint a second Royal Commission to go over ground which has been so thoroughly gone over before. I would also remind the House that these marriages—I will not go so far as the noble Lord who introduced the Bill in the House of Lords in 1896, who said that they were only prohibited by one single tribe in Borneo, and that a cannibal tribe, but I will say they are permitted by dispensation or otherwise in nearly all Continental States. The Roman Catholic view is that there is no Biblical prohibition of these marriages, and they grant dispensations on the ground that where the Church forbids the Church can permit. I believe I am right in saying that the Jewish community so highly approve of these marriages, and so strong is their conviction of their advantage, that it is their practice to allow a man to contract a marriage with his deceased wife's sister at an earlier date than he would be permitted to marry another woman.

Practically all our responsible colonies have adopted this law, with the assent of the Crown, and I believe Newfoundland is waiting to be incorporated with Canada, where these marriages are permitted. In the United States they are universally permitted.

With regard to this particular Bill, I think the House will agree that we were wise in adopting the form in which it passed the House of Lords in 1896. That is the very mildest form in which the Bill could be presented. Conciliation has been pushed to an extreme. There are many points in regard to which hon. Members who support the Bill wish it were made stronger, but I hope they will agree with me that the advantage of getting the principle of the Bill passed is so strong that it is desirable to accept its present form. I wish to point out that we are not going to adopt the Mosaic law in its extreme severity; we are not going to make these marriages compulsory. It seems almost unnecessary to say that, but the arguments against the Bill appear generally to be directed to that point. I remember reading an article by a Member of this House, the late Mr. Beresford Hope, whose articles were always interesting and worth reading, in which the whole of the argument was really based upon the idea that, if the old law was once abrogated, these marriages would be absolutely compulsory. I would also point out that while the law is retrospective in that the children of past marriages will not be bastards, we carefully preserve vested interests. Anybody who is entitled to any right or privilege under the present law will have his vested interest preserved.

There are two points in regard to which I confess I am sorry we have had to give way, but I think it is necessary. I do not think anybody would wish that a clergyman should be compelled to celebrate these marriages against his conviction. But we go further than that. The bishops have represented that while one clergyman might celebrate these marriages another might refuse, and it would introduce a great element of confusion and want of discipline into a Church which already is not very remarkable for its discipline. The grievance on this point, however, is not a very great one, because if anybody desires to be married according to the rites of the Church of England, and a clergyman is willing to perform the ceremony, it only entails a very short visit to the Registrar to make that marriage legal and valid. I have never myself been able to see why marriages should be put on a different footing from births and deaths. You must register a birth, whatever baptismal service may afterwards be performed, and you must register a death, whatever religious service may be performed over the grave. Therefore I do not think it is a very great grievance that you should be obliged to register your marriage, although a subsequent rite may be performed in a church. There is another point which is felt in my own country to be a strong grievance. It is very sad that the Sacrament has often been refused to those who have married a deceased wife's sister. We provide that no clergyman should be liable to any pains or penalties for withholding the rights and privileges of Church membership. I am very sorry that it should be so, but if hon. Members think of the meaning of the institution of the Holy Communion, and remember that the whole idea of it is brotherly love and amity, that they are told by the rubrics of the Church that all quarrels must be put aside and all injustices compensated before coming to that table, I think they will agree that if a clergyman was compelled to take part in the service against his will it would hardly be carrying out the great principle and idea of that rite.

Perhaps I ought to anticipate some of the objections urged against the Bill. One which I have always considered very disingenuous and unfair is that if marriage with a deceased wife's sister were permitted it would be impossible for a woman to live with her brother-in-law to take care of his children. Hon. Members who bring forward that argument know perfectly well that in the present state of society, unless persons are of very advanced age, that is not possible at present. If a young woman went to live with her brother-in-law she would not be received in society. ["Oh."] I can mention instances. I remember a case in which a Bishop of the Church of England, who voted against this Bill, was concerned. His gardener's wife died, and her sister came to keep house for him, and look after his large family. After about three weeks the Bishop sent for him and said: "Of course, I quite understand that in your first grief you naturally looked to your sister-in-law to come and help you, but, although I have nothing to say against your morals, and have full belief in your being a good man, it will be a public scandal if you go on living with this woman," and he told him that either his sister-in-law must leave the house or he must leave his service. There was also the case of an officer at Woolwich whose wife died, leaving him with a large family. His sister-in-law came to look after them in the married quarters they had hitherto occupied, while he himself went to the single quarters. Even then the sister-in-law was not received, and the colonel of the regiment refused to acknowledge or to call upon her. With actual marriages the feeling is the other way. I have never known, except in the case of a few very illiberal people, any real objection to those who have married their deceased wife's sister. Another anomaly of the law is that the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not recognise relations of affinity. Therefore, if a man has married his deceased wife's sister and dies, leaving her the whole of his property, she has to pay as a stranger in blood. The law considers her relationship to her brother-in-law so near that it will not permit her to marry him, and at the same time it charges her 10 per cent. upon any property that he may leave her because there is no relationship whatsoever existing between them. I shall therefore claim the support of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for this Bill.

I speak on this matter on behalf of the country, and I hope of the whole Empire, but more especially on behalf of my own constituency. There is a very widespread feeling throughout all Norfolk in favour of this Bill, and I believe that that feeling is not confined to any particular district, but is general throughout the country. I believe that if it were possible for a general election to be fought on this question alone not a single borough or county would return a Member opposed to such marriages. I see the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich has placed upon the Paper the motion, "That the Bill be read a second time this day six months." I thank him for the moderation of his proposal. When I saw the motion, having regard to the previous proposal of the noble Lord, I thought the words "six months" had some reference to the term of imprisonment to which he proposed I should be sentenced. I am aware of the strength of the noble Lord's following. He has behind him the whole strength of the English Church Union, and he may perhaps be supported by some of those whom he wished recently to imprison. [Several NATIONALIST MEMBERS: No.] I am very glad to hear it. But I wish to call attention to the fact that it is only one section of the Church of England who are against this Bill. A very large number are strongly in its favour. This is not in any way a party question, as is shown not only by the fact that I shall, I believe, get the support of a majority of Members on both sides of the House, but also by the unanimous action of the colonies. I may say here that I regret I was obliged to select this Bill in preference to the Colonial Marriages Bill, because this is a grievance which has been going on for a very long time. But this Bill will cover the Colonial Marriages Bill if it is passed. That measure has three times passed the House of Lords, but been blocked in this House. On this matter of colonial marriages I would quote the words of Sir Frederick Pollock—

> "It seems to me an extraordinary anomaly and injustice that marriages which are valid in every self-governing British colony, under Acts approved by the Crown, should still be considered invalid, or be liable to have their validity disputed for any purpose, when the parties or their children come to the mother country, which . . . . they regard as home."

A very interesting circumstance is that in 1876 a very large and influential deputation, which was received by Lord Carnarvon, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, pointed out the position of those who had been married in the colonies—that they had contracted marriages according to the usage of the colonies, under a law which Her Majesty had in an express manner approved, the moment they put foot on English ground they were declared to be living in adultery and their children proclaimed bastards. That is a state of law which the House can hardly wish to continue. Only last year an application was made to the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on this subject. He stated that he made it a rule not to interfere in questions affecting marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and therefore refused to receive the deputation. I regret that he did that, because I consider it is the principal duty of the Government not only to govern this country, but to look to the interests of the colonies. We hear a great deal about Imperialism nowadays. I claim to be an Imperialist in the true sense of the word, for I believe that the true policy of Imperialism is to knit together the Empire by similar laws, customs, and institutions, and to give a just and impartial consideration to the wishes of our countrymen beyond the seas. I have heard it said that this is only a small matter. But the sum of the happiness of this life is made up of small matters, and this Bill—though it may not affect the rich, because they can go abroad to some colony or country in which the iniquitous law which we are trying to alter does not prevail, and live there in happiness—affects the poor in their homes which they cannot leave, and deprives them of the happiness which would ensue if this proposal were sanctioned. I hope, if I may use the words of Mr. Bright, that this House will declare with no uncertain voice that —

> "the common liberty of men and women in the chief concern of their lives should not be interfered with by a law of Parliament which has no foundation in nature, and which, while it pretends to the sanction of Revelation, is in reality quite contrary to its dictates."

I would make one final appeal to the opponents of the Bill. The opposition comes avowedly from one section of the Church. I would ask those hon. Members whether they think the course they are following will make that Church more attractive or popular. We have done our best to meet our opponents; we have shown every consideration for their feelings; we have pushed conciliation to its utmost limit. Do they not see that it is unjust and tyrannical to try to force their own ecclesiastical views upon those who do not agree with them, and to join in upholding a prohibition which is almost unanimously considered as unjustifiable and which inflicts a very cruel hardship upon a large number of people? I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge Wells): I rise for the purpose of asking the House to reject this Bill. In doing so, like the hon. Member opposite, I shall be going over old ground and using old arguments, but at all events those arguments have proved effective up to the present time, and, in the absence of any new argument on the other side, I hope they will prove effective either here or in another place in stopping the Bill on this occasion. The hon. Member has treated the matter very lightly, and as a matter of mere convenience and expediency. Those of us who oppose the measure regard it far more seriously. We consider that the Bill proposes to alter altogether the universal law of Christian marriage which has prevailed from the earliest times. We are asked to alter what we believe has been laid down by clear Divine command. The hon. Member says the opposition comes from one section of one Church, and asks whether we think in opposing this Bill we are making that Church attractive to the people. I have never heard a more extraordinary argument. As if our duty as Churchmen was to make our Church attractive to the people! I do not believe there is any Church which would base its views upon so important a matter as marriage on a question of mere temporary expediency and popularity. We are also asked to introduce a change which will break down a custom which, notwithstanding the statement of the hon. Member, prevails very largely among the people, of a sister of a deceased wife coming to look after the children of her sister after her death, and living with the husband without any scandal or reproach. I was astonished to hear the hon. Member say there was any scandal or reproach attaching to it. I have never heard of such being the case; while, on the other hand, I can give endless instances in which the exact opposite is the fact. If you pass this Bill, the condition of affairs which is so advantageous to the children—that of being brought up by the one who is nearest in kin to their deceased mother—will disappear altogether. Women will certainly not be able to enter into such a position if the idea that they are no longer sisters, but mere strangers, and therefore marriageable, once becomes law. The House is asked to make this very serious change, but not to go into the whole matter; to introduce a perfectly illogical, one-sided, and unfair exception; to legislate for one particular example, but not to touch the question of the deceased husband's brother, or a niece, or any other of the alterations in the table of prohibited degrees which might be suggested. If this thing is to be dealt with at all, it must be dealt with on a clear and logical basis. To ask us to make this alteration, which introduces an inequality between the sexes which does not at present exist, is a very strong order unless its promoters can point to some real and great demand on the part of a large section of the people. I have been a Member of this House for nine years, and have fought several elections, but I have never heard this question brought forward at an election meeting or come across any demand for such a change in the law. When we are told that this is a measure which the poor earnestly desire, my reply is that, by the ordinary constitutional methods, the poor people of the country never make that desire known. So far from this being a poor man's Bill, my view is that it is merely a measure brought forward in the interests of certain rich and influential people, who have themselves broken the law, and want to be "whitewashed."

The hon. Member who moved this Bill referred to the Royal Commission of 1847. That Commission investigated the number of these so-called marriages which had taken place since the passing of the Lyndhurst Act. There were altogether 1,648, of which forty were among the poorer classes, and 1,608 among the richer classes. If you are going to alter the law at all you must look at the beginning and see whence this law came. Without wishing to argue in this House the question of the terms of the prohibition in the eighteenth chapter of Leviticus, may I say that the origin of the law, as clearly and logically expressed there, is that the husband and wife are one flesh, and that, as they are of one flesh, as we are expressly told, a man or a woman may not marry his or her near of kin, he or she must not marry either their own near of kin or the near of kin of the husband or wife. For that reason it clearly follows, because the deceased wife's sister is the near of kin of the wife, that a man may not marry his deceased wife's sister. It is argued that this particular degree is not prohibited in so many words in that chapter. I admit it. But there are thirteen prohibitions which have always been regarded as examples, and of those no less than seven are prohibitions of affinity, and only six of consanguinity. Although a man is not expressly forbidden to marry his deceased wife's sister, the exact converse is prohibited, and a wife may not marry her deceased husband's brother. Surely the one thing follows from the other, and, as Bishop Jewel once said—

> "Albeit I be not forbidden by plain words to marry my wife's sister, yet I am forbidden to do so by other words, which, by exposition, are plain enough; for when God commands me that I should not marry my brother's wife it follows directly that I may not marry my wife's sister, for between one man and two sisters and one woman and two brothers is a like analogy and proportion."

I do not want to argue the interpretation of the verse or to go into details; suffice it for me to say that from the earliest times, among the Jews, among early Romans in the early Church, the idea that the husband and wife are one flesh has been at the very root of the matter. The idea has been prevalent not only among Christian nations, but it was the law in ancient Rome in Pagan times. Gibbon, the great historian, has written these words about it—

> "The profane law-givers of Rome were never tempted by interest or superstition to multiply the forbidden degrees; but they inflexibly condemned the marriage of sisters or brothers, hesitated whether first cousins should be touched by the same interdict, revered the parental character of aunts and uncles, and treated affinity and adoption as a just imitation of the ties of blood."

That was the law in even pagan Rome. From the very earliest times in the Christian Church the same law has prevailed. We have been told that there is no evidence of it in the Christian Church before the fourth century. That may be true, but the evidence we have is sufficient to prove that it always existed in the early Church, because the first evidence is that of Bishop Basil, who wrote in the fourth century, "We know of no such marriages; they are incestuous; they do not exist." Coming down to more recent times, the law has always prevailed in the Eastern Church, and prevails now. In Western Christianity it prevailed always, until a dispensation was first given in the Middle Ages by Pope Alexander. Since then dispensations have been given by the Romish Church, but what are these dispensations? They are dispensations, not only in the case of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, but in the case of all or a great many of the other prohibited degrees, including some of consanguinity. Dispensations have been given even in the case of a man marrying his own niece. But that does not prove that the Church of Rome permits these marriages. On the contrary, if a dispensation is required, the dispensation itself is the proof of the law.

Let us turn to the Church of England. The Church of England, following the universal practice of the Western Church, has always prohibited these marriages, and so much so (as apparently some doubt has been raised) that in the Canon —which, with all deference to the hon. Member, was passed by Convocation in 1571, the same Convocation which drew up the Thirty-nine Articles, and gave its sanction to the table of prohibited degrees there is this passage (I am reading the English translation)—

> "All marriages which have anywhere been contracted within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited in the 18th chapter of Leviticus should be dissolved by the authority of the Bishop, but especially if anyone after the death of his first wife should have married her sister; for this degree by the common consent and judgment of all learned men is held to be prohibited in Leviticus."

Therefore, so far as the Church of England goes, there can be no more doubt than there is in the case of the Eastern Church or the Church of Rome. I am therefore justified in saying that what the hon. Member asks us to do so lightly, and as a matter of mere expediency, is to alter the custom which has lain at the root of the idea of Christian marriage from the very earliest time.

What argument does the hon. Member bring forward in support of this change? He says that apparently it was the law in England down to 1835. Once more we have the Lyndhurst Act brought up and misunderstood. The Lyndhurst Act simply provided that marriages which had been voidable up to that time should in future be void *ipso facto*. Why had they been voidable? Because they really were void, and a certain process had to be gone through to make them legal from the civil point of view. The Lyndhurst Act did not alter the actual law; it merely altered the machinery of the law. I said that no new arguments had been brought forward in favour of the Bill, but there is one. We are told that the Treasury had settled the whole question, because if a deceased wife's sister inherits any money from the husband of the deceased wife she has to pay the full 10 per cent. duty, the Treasury not regarding affinity as being the same thing as consanguinity. The Treasury has a hand in most things, but I never knew before that it settled the law of marriage. Then we have the argument from the colonies. We are told that the colonies are almost unanimously in favour of this measure, and that because there is an Imperial spirit abroad—we are glad to recognise an Imperialist spirit on the benches opposite—we must follow the example of the colonies in this matter. But are we in this matter to follow their law? It is a very good thing that we should support the colonies in all Imperial matters, but when we give the colonies self-government it is one thing to say "We won't legislate for you; you must legislate for yourselves," and it is quite another thing to say that we in future should be legislated for by the colonies, for that is what you are asking. You are asking that, because the colonies have this law of their own on a matter which has led to some unpleasantness in this country, therefore we should adopt their law. I do not think that the colonies really desire that we should alter our law to please them. Certainly they have never said so. I know, of course, that the Colonial Marriages Bill has been brought in by people who wish to use it mainly as a lever to change the law at home. I know that Lord Strathcona and other eminent colonists have spoken strongly on this matter; but, on the other hand, at the Colonial Conference some years ago, out of twenty-one colonial representatives only six urged that we should alter the law in this country. Sir Alexander Campbell, one of the representatives of Canada, the colony to which Lord Strathcona belongs, used these words—

> "They had altered this law to suit their own position, and were quite willing that the people of England should retain theirs."

This shows that a large number of colonists quite see that they cannot expect to force our hands in this matter. But we are told that a slur is cast on them when they come to this country, that their wives are not recognised in society, and that their children are not recognised as legitimate. I can hardly believe that this is the case. An hon. Member told us that a friend of his had married his deceased wife's sister somewhere in Norfolk, and that they were now living in Norfolk. If that is the case, I think that the colonists who do the same thing in the colonies, and who come to live in Norfolk, or any other county, will be received equally in good society. The late Lord Cairns, who I suppose would be regarded by most Members as a great authority on this point, held the view that a marriage with a deceased wife's sister contracted in the colony by a man domiciled in the colony should be perfectly legal in this country. If that is so I think this colonial grievance disappears, and we see that the real object of the Colonial Marriages Bill is to enable English people who are domiciled in England to go to the colonies and marry there, so that their marriage may be good when they come back to England.

I would venture to put before the House one or two other objections which come from a study of the law of marriage and the law of divorce in the colonies, and in some other countries which have adopted this change of the law. In the colonies, and also in America, they have done the thing logically. They have practically said in every colony, and in nearly every State in America, that there should be no prohibition in regard to the relations of affinity and consanguinity, and the result is that in those countries they have broken down altogether the idea of oneness of flesh between the husband and the wife. They have reduced marriage to being a mere civil contract, undertaken very often for mere, I might say, temporary expediency. The colony of Victoria has lately passed a new Divorce Act which allows the greatest amount of laxity, so much so that a woman may get divorce on the ground that a man has deserted her, that he has been frequently drunk, or that he has been in prison three years. In other words, the whole idea of oneness disappears, and marriage becomes a mere temporary contract voidable for a great variety of reasons. Take again the state of affairs in America. In the State of Kansas there is one divorce to every twelve marriages celebrated in the year; in Colorado one divorce for every five marriages celebrated; and in San Francisco one divorce for every three marriages celebrated. Now I ask, are we prepared to tamper with our marriage law, when we have awful examples like those before us of what it leads to? I have not said very much about the social order of matters in this connection, but I do most emphatically say that the protection which is now afforded to children by the sister of the deceased wife would be lacking after that change. The women of this country as a whole are almost unanimously opposed to this measure. I received this morning, and I daresay some other Members received, a protest from some of those ladies who have taken a lead in the improvement of the social and educational position of women, and who have done an immense amount of good in this country. They protest most seriously and emphatically against, firstly, all the inequality that would be produced in the sexes if this Bill passed, and secondly against doing away with the great position of utility and social comfort which many of them have been able to occupy in the way of looking after a sister's children after her death. The Church of England is almost unanimously opposed to the Bill. [AN HON. MEMBER: No.] There may be individual exceptions. I believe the bulk of the people are absolutely indifferent about it, and we are asked to pass the Bill for the benefit of a few law breakers. I ask the House at all events, in view of the serious importance of the subject, to pause before it passes the Bill, to pause before it proceeds to tamper with that which has been held to be most sacred, and that which has led to our social purity, namely, the ancient law of marriage.

*Mr. SHARPE (Kensington, N.): I rise, Sir, to second the motion of my hon. friend the Member for the Tunbridge Division that this Bill be read a second time this day six months. He has dealt so fully with the religious arguments—biblical and ecclesiastical—that I shall confine myself to the practical questions: (1) What are we asked by this Bill to do? (2) Is it worth the risk to make the change proposed?

(1) We are asked to repeal a custom of universal Christendom handed down to us from primitive ages anterior to the severance of East and West, adhered to unfalteringly by all the churches of the orthodox communion, and still the rule of the Latin Church, though, as a Protestant, I regret that it has been often broken by the grant of Papal dispensations in individual cases to allow of marriage with a deceased wife's sister and other more distressing marriages—as, for instance, in the case of a member of a Royal House some years ago, the marriage of an uncle with a niece! Such dispensations began under the infamous Pope Alexander VI. But the exception proves the rule. In the English Church we have the canons of 1571 and the table in our Book of Common Prayer, the table of prohibited marriages. The Established Church of Scotland and the Disestablished Church of Ireland are equally opposed to the innovation.

(2) The risk we shall run is the abolition of all prohibitions in the table, for where can you stop? A man may marry his wife's sister; then why should not a woman marry her husband's brother? Further, we shall establish a cleavage between the law of the Church and the law of the State, and the friction consequent thereon must be very dangerous. It is a great fallacy to say that if the demand made by a few, a comparatively few, law-breakers were acceded to, no injury would be inflicted upon anyone. On the contrary, as was pointed out by Mr. Gladstone in his great speech of 1855—a storehouse of all the learning on the subject—for every man who would wish to marry his wife's sister, there would be thousands of women injured in being deprived of the comfort of their sisters being received in their husbands' houses, to comfort and help in times of trouble, sickness, and death. As regards the flippant question who could be better entrusted with the orphans of a lost wife than her surviving sister, it was well replied by Lord Brougham, "She will not prove to be the better aunt by becoming a stepmother.'"

Lastly, we have the colonial argument. Because we have had the Royal assent given to such marriages in some Australian colonies, therefore we ought to legalise them here. I cannot see the force of this argument. I yield to none in my admiration for the loyalty shown the mother country by our colonies in our time of distress during the war, but I consider it preposterous to propose to repay it by altering our law of inheritance. We have allowed those colonies complete legislative freedom to settle their own affairs as they like, but I can see no reason why they should be allowed to dictate our laws to us. The risk may be too much for an old community, which may be escaped by the greater buoyancy of a young State as of a young person. There is a remarkable precedent for refusing to alter our law for such reasons: one 666 years old, in the reign of Henry III. When it was proposed in 1235 by certain Norman ecclesiastics to alter another part of our law of inheritance in order to make it conform to that of the continental provinces then subject to our King, the reply of Parliament after full consideration was, that they were unwilling to alter the laws of England, which were *in use and approved*—an answer in historic words, which will be, I trust, repeated on this occasion by the Commons of England with regard to this Bill.

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Mr. Griffith-Boscawen.*

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*Mr. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) said the hon. Member for

Tunbridge Wells had quoted the custom of the Romans, but he did not know whether the hon. Member meant that we should adopt all the customs of the Romans. He was astonished to hear the remarks he made about them. He should like to point out with regard to the Romans, that in the very passage he quoted the law was laid down clearly that affinity and adoption were to be treated as consanguinity. Did he mean to suggest that, in the present day, after all these centuries, we should regard adoption and affinity in the same way as consanguinity? Really, he thought his hon. friend might have considered that since the time of the Romans a great Dispensation had come, and, indeed, that it might be admitted that Christianity had altered in many respects in favour of humanity the customs that prevailed among the Romans with regard to the law of marriage. His hon. friend wished to quote the Jews. He was astonished to hear him quoting the Jews, because that matter was dealt with by the hon. Gentleman who moved the Bill. It was notorious that the Jewish people were to a man in favour of this Bill, and he hoped before the debate closed that they would hear some Member of the House who belonged to that community on the subject, so that there should be a distinct answer given to the suggestion of his hon. friend that, according to Jewish law, such marriages were forbidden. The hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells wished to argue that these marriages were forbidden according to Scripture. He doubted whether that House was the proper place in which to discuss the meaning of Scripture, but he knew that when a Bill was brought in by Lord Lyndhurst to make these marriages valid, the Bishops assented to it. Was it to be supposed that if the Bishops thought there was anything inconsistent with Scripture in the proposal they would have assented to the Bill? The Pope, too, had been in the habit of granting dispensations to enable people to contract such marriages. Was it to be suggested that the Pope would have done that if he had thought they were forbidden by Scripture? He was not there to defend all the dispensations of the Pope, but he thought he might safely and assuredly argue that there could be nothing inconsistent with such marriages in Scripture when the Pope had given dispensations.

So much for the religious argument. Let them look at it a little further. For a long time these marriages were not void. Down to 1835 these marriages were voidable only, not void; and they were voidable only on one set of conditions. Some relation interested in the marriage had to bring a suit in an ecclesiastical court to make the marriage void, and it could only be voided if he was successful. The result was that in every case a suit was so instituted and dropped, and the marriage became actually valid, as no other suit could be instituted. The great majority of those who opposed the Bill belonged to the party which was striving to revive in this country the claims of the sacerdotalists. They would to-morrow abolish the Divorce Court, which had done so much to alleviate misery; they would then attack the present law of civil marriage, and hand back the whole control of marriage to the priests, thereby destroying the great liberty that had been gained, and reverting to the perilous state of things which existed in the darkest ages of this country. The opinion of Lord Cairns with regard to this matter had been quoted. He should like to ask whether those who were quoting Lord Cairns now would quote his opinion and authority upon other ecclesiastical discussions that were likely to arise in this House. He should be delighted to have Lord Cairns quoted with approval in regard to certain other matters. If they followed his opinions they would have a very different state of discipline in the Church from that which they had now. It was suggested that these marriages would make a great difference in the social condition of the people. His hon. friend had asked, "Who has ever been asked a question about this Bill at an election?" Well, he had. He was a Yorkshire Member, and he could only say he believed that if the West Riding were polled to-morrow there would be more than two to one in favour of the Bill. His experience since he had been a Yorkshire Member had convinced him that this Bill was thoroughly desired throughout the country. Considering the claims put forward by the sacerdotal party, it was important that the Bill should no longer be regarded as a small matter. He hoped the result of the Bill would be to show that the great majority of the people of this country were in favour of remedying a cruel injustice, and to restore—for that was what it came to—the law to its former condition. In speaking in this House on this Bill, John Bright said that much as mankind had suffered by cruel war at the hands of soldiers, he doubted whether mankind had ever suffered as much at the hands of soldiers as at the hands of priests. He hoped that a great majority for this Bill would at all events for a time check the progress of the sacerdotalists throughout the country.

Mr. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): The right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken has twitted my hon. friend with having quoted Lord Cairns, and asked whether he would also quote Lord Cairns on other ecclesiastical topics. My answer to that is that Lord Cairns's opinion on Church matters was not quoted, but his opinion on the law of the land was quoted. He swept away and disposed of the difficulty suggested by the hon. Member who moved the measure that people coming over to this country who had been legally married in their own domicile abroad would be treated as living in concubinage in this country. My hon. friend said he had a distinguished friend, but unfortunately a law-breaking friend, who had married his wife's niece, and yet he was visited by all the distinguished, respectable, and law-abiding people of Norfolk. I do not know whether his distinguished friend will thank him for advertising this fact. The hon. Gentleman and his measure are going to do nothing whatever for him. They are going to leave his children illegitimate, and leave him to be looked upon by the country as living in concubinage. We look upon marriage as a sacred institution, which should be viewed altogether differently from an ordinary contract of sale or purchase. [Opposition cries of "Hear, hear."] I am glad for once to find myself in sympathy with hon. Members opposite. The supporters of this measure say that there is a large demand for it, and the right hon. Gentleman who spoke last was very indignant at the statement made by my hon. friend that this question was hardly ever referred to at the elections. He told us that during his political career only one person at one meeting ever asked him a question upon this subject. Nobody in my constituency, either on the platform, in private, or in public, has ever mentioned the subject to me, and that does not look as though there was such a burning demand for this reform as has been described.

As I have already shown, if there is no more sanctity in the marriage contract than in any other contract, then the whole doctrine disappears, and you ought to be allowed to marry any relation of your wife, and you ought to be able to marry even her daughter. I say that such a proposition is not only grossly illogical, but grossly disgusting. To say that there is any analogy between the particular occasions alluded to which justifies us as a general rule in allowing this thing by law, I must frankly say is a pure absurdity. Both the hon. Members who have addressed the House, and the right hon. Gentleman who followed them, have endeavoured to tar those of us who disapprove of this measure with the sacerdotal brush. They seem to think that there is something discreditable in the fact that we are deeply interested in the Church to which we belong in regard to this question. I do not believe hon. Members opposite have any such ignoble feelings as that they would not wish to see us loyal members of our Church. As a churchman—not as a high churchman or a sacerdotalist, but simply as a member of the English Church—I object to a law for which I believe there is no general demand being introduced which will tend to separate further the law of the Church from the law of the land. You will say that this has been already done by the Divorce Court, but so far as the divorce laws have tended to separate the law of the Church from the law of the land, so far I believe those Acts have been a great misfortune in this country. We should endeavour to keep within the law as laid down in the Gospel. This measure is a deliberate attempt to run counter to the law of our Church. The hon. Member practically says to us "We have drawn up such a liberal Bill, and we have treated you so well, and so nicely met all your objections, that I think you might let the thing go through." He says that these people married by the registrar are not allowed to be married in church, and that our priests, who, according to the right hon. Gentleman, inflict so much injury on the country, are not to be punished if they refuse them the sacred rites of our Church and the Holy Communion. Does that tend to make for peace? You do not see that, in your efforts to assist those who have broken the law, and in your energy to look after law breakers, you are going to raise strife in every parish in the country. In this way you think that you are doing good work for the country. It is almost incredible to conceive that men can really believe that they are doing good by promoting measures of this kind, and then trying to stuff down our throats the argument that we are narrow, prejudiced, and bigoted sacerdotalists because we try to stop our country being severely injured. Why is this to be done? It is to be done because somebody wants it. Somebody has broken the law, and therefore he would like to have the law altered to suit his case. Many years ago the Mormon sect was popularised by the fact that it held out to its members a right to marry as many women as they liked. If hon. Members opposite found as a consequence that bigamy was spreading in this country, would they not come down to this House and protest against it? With regard to the marriage laws in the Colonies, however much we may sympathise with the colonists, I ask is it reasonable that we should allow them to tamper with institutions and laws which we in England regard as sacred? Is it not a sufficient amount of liberty or Home Rule for us to allow our colonies to make their own laws, and to say that we will consent to any reasonable proposals which they make in the interests of their country, without asking us to put an end practically to a law simply because it has been broken by certain persons?

We know that this measure is supported by one or two rich men who have broken the law themselves. We know that the machinery of this agitation is still being kept up by a few rich men who run the show in London. We know that the thing is fictitious, and the people themselves do not care for it at all. The mass of the people are not slow nowadays to make known their views to their representatives in Parliament, and we have constantly to go to them and keep in touch with their views. It is in our own interests to find out what they require, otherwise we should soon lose our seats. It is our business to try and find out what our constituents are thinking and feeling, and I know that, as far as my own constituency is concerned, if there was any sort of feeling upon this subject they would not be so shy as not to tell me quickly what they thought about it. I think the hon. Member who first spoke said that it was a very dishonest argument to say that, whereas a married wife's sister could now come and live with her and assist her in the discharge of the household duties, she could not do so after this Bill was passed. I think I am justified in saying that if you break one article of affinity you break into it all. If you break down the doctrine of affinity, the woman becomes a perfect stranger in every respect, and I think that matter has been completely dealt with. I thank the House for allowing me to speak at such length upon this question, and I shall heartily record my vote against this measure.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said he had not intended to take part in the debate, but in the last two or three days he had received a large number of communications on the subject of the effect the Bill, if passed, would have on the general marriage laws of the country, and these had strongly confirmed him in his opposition to the Bill. He could not congratulate the promoters of the measure on the advocacy they had received, and certainly from a Catholic point of view the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Sowerby Division was eminently calculated to influence votes against the Bill and to increase the opposition to this attempt to tamper with the marriage laws. In insulting and uncalled-for terms the right hon. Gentleman denounced what he was pleased to call "sacerdotalism," leaving wholly out of view the belief that certainly was in the mind of every Irish Catholic that marriage is a sacred sacramental rite, and a function which it was the duty of the clerical body to protect. It was a rite which should never be interfered with by the law of the land. The interference with marriage as a solemn religious ceremony by the divorce law had done much to promote immorality and to destroy what might be called the very foundations of society. Day after day our great newspapers were filled with disgusting details of scandals in all grades of life. That was one effect of the attempt to abrogate the law laid down by our Divine Redeemer, that no man should seek to put asunder those whom God had joined together. In America the facilities offered for divorce were a scandal to a Christian people. Marriage was the basis and foundation of civilised society, and the ultimate result of depriving it of its religious character would be disastrous.

They heard of influences behind this Bill, and on one occasion he listened to a debate in the House of Lords, when the present King and his son and many of the highest in the land attended to support this most objectionable measure. It was stated in that debate, and not denied, that it was solely in the interest of a few people that this change in Christian law was attempted. He was glad that the proposal to make this serious change in the Christian law was then defeated, and he hoped the present effort would meet with a like fate. There could be no greater misfortune to domestic homes than that this Bill should pass. It would set up discord, it would lead the wife to distrust her sister. Such a proposal had no sanction in Scripture or in any covenant of the Church, and the mere fact of a Papal dispensation having been given under special circumstances established the fact that the Roman Catholic Church did not approve of these marriages. He did not believe there was any wide desire for such a Bill, and felt confident that 99 per cent. of the women of Ireland were opposed to it. He had received five telegrams from Dublin asking him to support the Bill. They were handed in at St. Stephen's Green at the same time, and he intended to institute an inquiry as to whether they were not all sent by the same person. It seemed to him that the attempt of the House of Commons to legislate on this subject was an attempt to introduce one of the doctrines of the French Revolution into our legislation—namely, free trade in marriage. He agreed with the last speaker as to the necessity of protecting affinity, and recognising it in connection with the marriage law. He believed there was in the breast of all of them a natural repugnance to this measure, the principle embodied in which was an outrage, and the giving effect to it would be deeply resented. He hoped hon. Members would therefore reject a Bill which had for its object the loosening of the most sacred ties that bound society together.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said the hon. Member who moved the rejection of the Bill made one great blunder. He did not make his speech—full as it was of learning and research—at the proper time. It should have been delivered thirty years ago, when the Colonial Marriages Act was first passed. It was now utterly out of date and entirely uncalled for. It had been said that there was no colonial demand for this Bill, whereas as a matter of fact the colonies had shown the utmost desire for it to be passed into law. That desire had been made known through the voices of their accredited representatives, who were almost in the position of ambassadors. The colonies had likewise petitioned the Government in favour of the Bill. In what other way could they give expression to their desire? They were absolutely and entirely in favour of the Bill. They felt very strongly and bitterly upon the subject, and it was utterly impossible for the Government of the day to ignore its responsibility in connection with this matter, and say it was not going to take its stand on one side or the other. The whole responsibility rested entirely with the Government, and must not be handed over to private Members sitting on the other side of the House. They demanded that this Bill should be carried into law, not only in justice to themselves and to their colonies, but in justice to their whole womanhood through the British Empire. Not long before her late Majesty gave her consent to the measure, that is to say the Colonial Marriages Act, in 1871, the colonies were treated something like the Uitlanders had been treated—with supreme indifference; and the one object of British statesmen was to get rid of them at any price. [" No, no."] The then Government of the day—he passed no reflection upon either party—treated with absolute indifference and were careless about our great colonial empire. He did not complain of the British statesmen, as they simply reflected British public opinion. They practically said, " Go where you please as long as you do not bother us. We do not care how many wives you have so long as you do not trouble us." The bone of self-government was thrown to them in a spirit of contemptuous indifference, just as a bone was thrown over to a hungry dog, to get rid of them, and avoid troublesome and difficult questions as well as to shirk our responsibilities. But it had not done so in any way. The day was past for the utterly absurd and ridiculous distinctions which were formerly drawn between public opinion in the colonies and in the mother country. Many persons who were long past middle age hoped to live to see the colonies and the mother country as united as Kent was to Sussex. At the time her late Majesty gave her consent to the Colonial Marriages Bill a voyage from Australia to the mother country was a matter of months; now it was a matter of weeks. Then a voyage to Canada was a question of weeks, whereas it was now a question of days. These things had brought the colonies into close alliance with the mother country. We had to recognise this fact — that nothing in nature ever stood still, we were either going forwards or backwards, and the tie which united the mother country with her colonial dependencies was——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now entering on the general discussion of a subject which is very remote.

MR. CATHCART WASON apologised for having transgressed the rules of debate. What he wished to show was that the tie between the mother country and the colonies would probably be much weakened if in the consideration of this question regard was not had for the opinion of the self-governing colonies. So far as colonial opinion was concerned it was absolutely unanimous in favour of the Bill, and he believed, too, that the whole womanhood of this country was in favour of the measure. America had set a noble example in the emancipation of women. In days gone by mankind generally had a very small opinion of the virtue of women, and hedged them round about by all sorts of impossible restrictions. But very different views now prevailed, and he hoped, therefore, that this Bill would be passed by an overwhelming majority. This was more than a national question, it was a question of the Empire; it was a question uniting the colonies with the mother country in one indissoluble bond. It was one of those small things which went to make the happiness and greatness of a people, and would go a long way towards more firmly cementing the friendly relations between this country and the colonies. While cooling his heels at St. Martin's-le-Grand the other day he noticed a place called " Little Britain," and, on inquiry, found that it was bounded on one side by a hospital and on the other by a churchyard. He could only hope that if we were to have in our midst a party of " Little Britishers," they would not land their country in a similar position to Little Britain—half way between disease and death.

*EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): One aspect of this debate which strikes me is its air of unreality. Not only is it academic, but every one knows that if the Bill is read a second time it can hardly be passed this session. It is also unreal because the opponents of the measure are placed under a great disability. Whatever the nominal grounds adduced for the opposition, the real grounds are religious; and religious arguments are those which the House is least competent to consider and most reluctant to discuss. I am not going to discuss the theological part of the question. But I do think that those who say that the Bill does not conflict with religious argument might at least study what that argument is. I cannot imagine how any hon. Member can seriously say he is not going to press the Bill to the same length as the Jewish Levitical law, "which made these marriages compulsory." Are hon. Members aware that even if these marriages are not forbidden by Levitical law, they are, at any rate, discouraged. The marriages that were made compulsory were marriages, not between a man and his deceased wife's sister, but between a man and his deceased brother's wife, and then only when the deceased brother had left no children. Is it not absurd to suggest that we should pass a Bill to enable a man to marry his deceased wife's sister when there are children, because the Jewish law provides that a man shall be obliged to marry his deceased brother's wife when there are no children? I do not know whether we are to take the speeches delivered this afternoon in favour of the Bill as presenting the case for it in the best possible light. I do not think I ever heard a more revolutionary measure proposed on such unsubstantial and contradictory grounds. On the one hand, it is said that the Bill will merely remove a hardship which is severely felt, and in the same breath, that it will bring the law into accordance with public feeling. But it is ridiculous to minimise the importance, or to deny the revolutionary character, of a measure which sweeps away the basis on which the law of marriage has rested ever since this country became a nation, and which suggests no rational alternative. That is the real crux of the question we have to consider. According to the religious view marriage rests on the clear principle that a man may not marry any relation of his wife whom he may not marry if that same person were his own relation by blood. That view has received the universal assent of all sections of the Christian Church for at least fifteen centuries, since the foundation of Christianity, and it is based on the whole teaching of the Scripture. We are told now that we are not to consider ourselves bound by any regulations which do not justify themselves on logical and scientific grounds. But what is the logical and scientific principle on which the marriage law of the future is to be based? Are you going to boldly sweep away all prohibitions against marriages within the degrees of affinity? If not, why not? Wherever the line is attempted to be drawn, it cannot be drawn at marriage with a deceased wife's sister. When the Bill was first introduced fifty years ago marriage with a deceased wife's niece was included; and though that provision is now omitted, clearly if one marriage is to be legitimate, *a fortiori* the other is equally so. Abroad there are very few countries which have sanctioned marriage with a deceased wife's sister without also sanctioning marriage with a deceased husband's brother. In Germany marriage between uncle and niece is permitted; and in some States of America they see no objection to a man marrying his deceased father's wife. We all know that these marriages would be regarded with loathing and detestation by the vast majority of the people of this country; and is it fair to ask the House to pass a law on the ground that other nations have passed it, and yet to pretend that we should be able to draw an arbitrary distinction which other nations have found it impossible to draw?

This is, I say, a leap in the dark; and what necessity has been shown for it? In whose interests is it to be taken? What is the evidence of any real wide-spread demand for the change? What proof is there of any wide-spread violation of the existing law? If the whole country were beating at the doors of the House in favour of the measure, I should still vote against it; but where is the evidence of the general demand? We know hon. Members have been approached by their constituents, and that some of them, who are in favour of the Bill personally, have absented themselves because they do not wish to give a vote contrary to the views of their constituents. For the last fifty years the measure has wandered from one House to the other in Protean shapes, and although in this House it has been passed by diminishing majorities, it has invariably—with one exception—been defeated and rejected by the House of Lords, and without a single protest from the public. What evidence is there of a wide-spread violation of the existing law? The marvel is, not that some people among the working classes have married their deceased wives' sisters, but that the custom has not become almost universal, when year after year responsible legislators hold out the hope that such marriages can be contracted with impunity. We know that as a fact cases of incest of all kinds do occur among the poorer classes. [Cries of "Withdraw."]

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Shame; I protest against that.

*MR. SPEAKER: No hon. Member has a right to get up and interrupt an hon. Member who is in possession of the House in order to make a protest.

MR. DILLON: I ask you, Sir, whether an hon. Member has a right to apply the disgraceful term and epithet of incest to men as honourable as himself.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To the poorer classes.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of order that the hon. Member does not agree with what the noble Lord says.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): Might not the noble Lord be requested to reconsider his words? He has made an imputation against the great bulk of our constituents.

*EARL PERCY: The intervention of hon. Members is unnecessary. I am not expressing my own opinion as to whether these unions are incestuous. It is the expression used in the existing law of England. These cases of irregular union, of course, occur among the poorer classes of the community, and among the richer classes quite as much. Indeed the latter form the great bulk of the cases. We know from the evidence laid before the Commission in 1847 that of 1,048 such marriages in the course of a year, three-fourths were contracted not by the poorer but by the wealthy classes. I say, therefore, that this Bill is not only based on no principle, but that it is not justified either by the evidence of a widespread violation of the existing law, or a general demand for a change.

I ask the House to consider in whose interest we are asked to legislate. It can only be in the interests of two classes—either the persons who have already contracted or intend to contract these marriages in the future, or else in the interests of their unfortunate offspring. We have already had sufficient evidence in connection with other kinds of legislation of the pernicious effect of sanctioning the principle that the violation of an existing law ought to be a sufficient justification for altering it. I will confine myself to showing that even if this Bill is passed it will not protect the interests of the people to whom I have referred, and, therefore, it is not only iniquitous in my view, but it is also a sham. Let us take the case of the children first. I do not really know why the children of a marriage with a deceased wife's sister should, in the abstract, be regarded as having any more claim to our sympathy than the children of any other illegitimate union. But I admit that there is a certain appearance of cogency derived from the fact that these unions have been legalised and allowed in the colonies, and that it does seem rather hard that if the children of these marriages come over to this country they are not to be regarded as having the full rights of children who are recognised as legitimate. That is a very unsound and, in my opinion, a very dangerous argument. It is unsound because there is no more reason why we should follow the example of the colonies, who have far less experience than we have in matters of this kind, than that they should follow ours. I think, if example is to be followed, it is the business of the colonies to follow ours. Let me point out that if the colonies vitally feel this great distinction in the marriage laws they have a very simple remedy. They have only to bring in a Bill reverting to the old and sound principle of the marriage law, and containing a retrospective clause safeguarding the interests of the people who have been misled in this matter. But all of us know that this argument, derived from the colonies, is really as hollow as the argument about a general demand for this Bill in the country, because this Bill does not apply to the colonies only, and even if it did it would not safeguard the rights of children of these marriages, for the simple reason that the promoters have inserted a clause in the Bill limiting its retrospective action as regards rights to property. Therefore, if we revolutionise the whole of our social system at home, we will not have even the shadowy consolation of removing from our colonies a grievance of which they have a right to complain.

Now I pass to the case of the parents. They may be said to have some ground at present to complain of two grievances. One is that they are under a social stigma in consequence of having contracted these marriages, and the other is that in cases of desertion or ill-treatment the law does not offer them any chance of redress. Take the case of social stigma. How will it be removed? This Bill provides that these marriages are to be considered legal if performed in the presence of a civil registrar, but it does not repeal the section of the divorce laws which brands these unions as incestuous. What will be the result? Either public opinion in this country will continue to coincide with that of the authors of the divorce laws, or else it will veer round and coincide with the opinion of Parliament, and adultery with a wife's sister during the wife's lifetime will be regarded as no worse than any other form of adultery. You cannot have it both ways. Either human law in matters of this kind is based on human instinct, or human instinct is based on human law. If the prevailing sentiment of the community has created the present law, then clearly the whole case of the supporters of this measure must fall to the ground if they cannot show that that sentiment has undergone a profound or radical alteration. But if, on the other hand, it is the law which has created popular sentiment in this matter, then we ought to be very careful how we change that law, unless we provide some other principle which will be recognised as equally binding on the moral sense of the community. Now let me say a word with regard to cases of ill-treatment and desertion. So far from affording any relief in these cases, the promoters of the Bill have turned it into a Bill for the protection of bigamy. They have introduced a section which practically provides that if a man has married his deceased wife's sister and subsequently deserted her for another he shall be able to repudiate that marriage, and in that case the deceased wife's sister would be left with the brand of a cast-off mistress, whereas her rival who is living in open immorality would be granted the full protection of the law. The practical effect of the passage of this Bill will be that it will encourage every scoundrel who has married his deceased wife's sister and then become tired of her to repudiate her before the knot is finally and irrevocably tied.

That brings me to one of the most sinister features of this attempt to tamper with the marriage laws. Let us put aside altogether for a moment the question of the views and the doctrines of the Christian Church. Let us assume our right to disregard them, as we long ago disregarded them, when we set up the divorce laws in this country. Take Christianity on a different footing. Even those who have never recognised it as anything else than a mere temporary phase in the great evolutionary current of human thought and ethics have never denied its splendid claim to have raised the status of women to a perfect equality with that of man. And it is to be reserved to this age—the age of emancipation of women—to devise this first insult, to thrust her down from that position of equality, to enact that what is perfectly legitimate for a man should be considered a crime in the case of a woman; and that although a man may marry his deceased wife's sister, a woman may not marry her deceased husband's brother. We are now asked to pass this change, which, whether it be good or bad, will vitally affect the life and happiness of every woman married and unmarried in this country, without asking the opinion of women or allowing them to be heard in a House in which they are not represented. No one is a stronger opponent than I am of the proposal to grant the parliamentary suffrage to women, but if we pass such a proposal as this, then the demand for the enfranchisement of women becomes absolutely unanswerable, and I hope hon. Gentlemen who desire that will at any rate be consistent on the present occasion, and that they will not vote for the Second Reading of this Bill until at all events women have been heard on the subject. There is another section of this House to whom I should like to appeal if I may, and which has been conspicuous in late years. I mean the so-called Protestant party. They profess, no doubt quite sincerely, devotion to the principles of the Reformation, they denounce certain practices in the Church as lawlessness, and whether I agree with their methods or not I have a large degree of sympathy with their objects. Are they going to be consistent? Are they going to take their stand on the side of the clergy, and protest against the lawlessness of the State? One of the greatest protests of the Reformers was a protest against the claim of the Pope to grant a dispensation for marriages of this kind. The Roman Catholic Church is still consistent. It has never altered its dogma and doctrine on this matter, and whether we agree with the doctrine of dispensation or not the Roman Catholic Church affords a splendid example, which might be well taken to heart by the Protestants of this country. I do not know whether I need emphasise the opinion of the Roman Catholic Church on this occasion, but in 1882 Cardinal Manning wrote his own opinion on this subject at very great length. He said that the law of the Roman Catholic Church forbade marriage with a deceased wife's sister, that dispensations were only granted for grave reasons, and that the alteration of the law would have the effect of throwing open to everybody that which was now confined to a few cases. Roman Catholics are faithful to their own doctrine, in spite of the fact that that faithfulness does inflict very serious hardship on the children of the marriages which the Pope has permitted. Roman Catholics are consistent. What about Protestants? If this Bill is passed we cannot blame the clergy of the Established Church for their lawlessness, for we will have proved ourselves quite as disloyal as they are to the principles of the Reformation. Surely we may well ask ourselves which is the party whose practices are more fraught with danger and ruin to the State—those who burn incense and carry lights in procession, or those who lend the weight of their authority to the fatal doctrine that you need no greater safeguard for the sanctity of social life than the passing opinion of a fluctuating parliamentary majority. If this Bill is passed it must create a cleavage in English society such as has never yet existed, and must bring the State into open conflict with the Church. Let no member of the Established Church think that this Bill can be passed and at the same time the connection between the Church and the State be maintained. Let no one suppose that we are going to allow the clergy of the Established Church to denounce as notorious evil livers people whom the State regards as lawful and legitimately married, and perpetuate a state of things under which two sets of persons may be found in adjacent parishes both of them having committed precisely the same act, one with complete immunity, and the other refused all right of participation in the most sacred offices of their religion.

There is a feeling of liberalism abroad which asks why people should not be allowed to do what they like, even if they cause offence or scandal to others. If this Bill be passed it will cause more than offence and scandal, and in this case the offenders will be in a minority, and the offended will be the majority. There is also a spirit of weariness at seeing this subject dragged up session after session, and a desire to vote upon it, and have done with it once for all. We are not going to have done with this question by taking our stand on a principle which no one can define or defend, and which hon. Gentlemen who now advocate this Bill will be the very first to attack as soon as it suits their own political convenience. Lastly, I come to the case of the colonies. We are told we ought to pass this Bill because it will remove a grievance from our colonies, who have done so much for us, and that we ought not to perpetuate ill feeling between the mother country and the colonies. We are told that in this matter we stand absolutely alone. Yes, Sir, we do, and I say frankly I think it is "a splendid isolation." It is not the only respect in which we stand alone. We also stand alone as being the greatest, wealthiest, and most powerful Empire the world has ever seen. I certainly am not going to say that there is no connection between the two. Whether there is or not, I think Englishmen are Englishmen all the world over, and I am certain that the colonies will not think one whit the worse of us if we refuse to compromise our conscientious convictions. On the contrary, I say they will admire us more if we insist on our right to claim that in questions of this kind no considerations of self-interest, no motives of political expediency have ever induced us, in the words of Tennyson—

> "To sacrifice the truth to serve the hour,
> Or palter with eternal God for power."

*Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): The noble Lord has in his powerful and eloquent speech suggested that this debate was unreal, but he has redeemed it from that imputation. He at all events has made it a real debate. He has unfolded to us new views of constitutional government; he has given this Bill an application which even its most devoted adherents did not believe it possessed; and he has laid down doctrines as absolutely inconsistent with the principles of Great Britain as a great constitutional nation as I have ever heard in the House of Commons. He has made not only a real, but an unreal speech. What has been unreal has been the manner in which he entirely ignored the history of this legislation. He talked about our being in a position of "splendid isolation," but he did not tell us how we came into that position. He left it to be inferred that our Legislature, actuated by the highest religious motives, has during a long succession of centuries enacted a series of laws for the purity of marriage, and that any departure from the august traditions of that legislation would involve the terrible consequences he so eloquently described. I am not going into the details of the Bill. I shall defend it exactly on the principle laid down by the noble Lord himself. This Bill is not dictated by political expediency or by party motives, and I venture to think that when a division on it is taken a very large number of hon. Members who share the noble Lord's political opinions will be found voting in favour of it.

I am going to tell the House the story of the Bill, as this is a new Parliament, and as it has been conspicuously ignored in this debate. I am sure the noble Lord, to whom I will not impute ignorance on any subject on which he speaks, must know that story. Prior to 1835 the law of this country with reference to these marriages was very clear and very simple. I am not going to give it in my own words, as my claim might be disputed by legal disputants in this House. I am going to quote the statement of the Royal Commission, which consisted of most eminent men including great judges, both legal and ecclesiastical, which investigated this question in 1847. The House will know that a Royal Commission in those days was not composed, as it is now, of contending disputants, who make the Commission the scene of a small Parliamentary debate. It was composed of five or six or seven men of independent and judicial minds, and their decisions had a weight which the decision of a Royal Commission does not now carry. That Commission was presided over by a bishop of great learning and impartiality—I mean Dr. Lonsdale, the then Bishop of Lichfield; and with him were associated Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams, Dr. Lushington, a distinguished ecclesiastical judge; Mr. Stuart Wortley, at one time Solicitor General, afterwards Recorder of London, and a distinguished member of this House; and Sir Arthur Blake, who was, so to speak, the lay member of the Commission. The House will be of opinion that the findings of a Commission of that character can be relied upon. The Commission found that for centuries certain marriages within certain degrees of affinity were prohibited by the Church, but that by the authority of the Pope dispensations were granted. They found that after the marriage of Henry VIII. and Catharine had been pronounced null and void, the ecclesiastical courts dealt with these marriages by pronouncing them null and void. In the reign of James I. the civil courts interfered and prohibited the ecclesiastical courts from pronouncing them null and void when either party was dead. After that decision these marriages were regarded as voidable, but if they were not pronounced void during the lifetime of both parties, then their validity could not afterwards be questioned, nor the legitimacy of the children impeached. That pronouncement entirely sweeps away the ground from the argument that these marriages are immoral or wrong, or that, to employ the word used, no doubt unintentionally, by the noble Lord, they were "incestuous," because an incestuous marriage could not be voidable only, it must be absolutely void *ab initio.*

This state of the law continued until 1835, when it was altered by what is known as Lord Lyndhurst's Act. What is the story of that Act? The head of a certain noble house in this country—I am sure the noble lord will be aware of the truth of what I am about to say—married two sisters. By the first sister he had no son, and by the second sister he had a son. Of course the legal minds of the day were brought to bear on the possibilities of the case. If the son's legitimacy were impugned in the lifetime of the father and the mother, the ecclesiastical courts would have pronounced the marriage null and void, the son would have been declared illegitimate, and the descent of that noble title would have gone in another direction. In addition to their high position, the parties were the near relatives of perhaps the greatest subject of the Crown, who had already been Prime Minister. Lord Lyndhurst was approached, and he introduced a Bill towards the close of 1835 which would have dealt with this case. That Bill had a very singular history, not only in its introduction, but also in its alteration. Lord Lyndhurst, in introducing the Bill in the House of Lords, pointed out the danger of marriages being voidable during so long a period as the lifetime of the parties. What he proposed to enact was that no proceedings should be taken to render such marriages already contracted void unless they were taken within six months after the passing of the Act, and that with regard to marriages contracted after the passing of the Act, no steps should be instituted in the ecclesiastical courts to render them void except within two years after the marriage. The House will again see that there was no question of dealing with anything that was immorally wrong. Surely, if such marriages were of the nature which the noble Lord so eloquently denounced, there could be no justification for the limitations of the proceedings which were proposed. *Hansard* was not so accurate in those days as it is now.* I tried to trace the story of the Bill through *Hansard*, but I failed. The Bill was not introduced until June, and came down to this House in August. At that time there were two very astute members of the Episcopal Bench in the House of Lords—the Bishop of London and the Bishop of Exeter—and of course a Bill of that kind would be a difficult Bill to pass in face of the opposition of the Bishops. I do not say that any bargain was made between so great a Chancellor as Lord Lyndhurst and two such eminent Prelates as the Bishops of London and Exeter; but at all events a curious arrangement was undoubtedly evolved by some mind or other, by which it was agreed that if all the marriages of which we are speaking which had been contracted in the past were made valid, all such marriages in the future would be prohibited, and so the Bill came down to this House. The Liberal party in the House of Commons protested against the second clause of the Bill. They said that they were quite willing to accept the first clause to render valid marriages which had been already contracted, but objected to the second clause which invalidated such marriages in the future. The House had a division, and the Liberal party was in a majority, and the second clause was struck out of the Bill. Sir William Follett, who had charge of the Bill, at once stated that he would not be responsible for it any further if the Amendment was maintained, and it was evident that the House of Lords had consented to the Bill legalising these marriages in the past on condition that such marriages should not be valid in the future. I make these statements on the authority of my late venerable colleague in the representation of Wolverhampton, who was a Member of the House at that time, and also on the authority of a

Sir Henry Fowler.

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* Mr. Gladstone stated, more than once, that Barrow's *Mirror of Parliament* gave for the period it covered (1828-41) fuller and more accurate reports than *Hansard*.—[Ed.]

distinguished Member of the House, who as a connection of the parties was intimately acquainted with all the facts. At that time several Members of this House had either contracted marriages with their deceased wives' sisters or were connected with persons who had contracted such marriages, and they took the very reasonable ground that it would be very hard to throw out a Bill which would make their marriages absolutely valid. Great influence was used on all sides of the House to get the opposition to the second clause withdrawn, and on the 24th August the Solicitor General moved to restore that clause. The clause was restored, and the Bill was passed. Gentlemen who had taken an active part in getting that clause struck out pledged themselves to use every effort in an early session of Parliament in order to have the law reformed. Will the noble Lord in face of a story like that contend for the justice, the sanctity of legislation which was not party legislation, but personal legislation, intended for the benefit of one noble family, and by which a great and serious change was made in the law of this country, which has inflicted injury and wrong upon a large section of His Majesty's subjects? That is the state of things which we are now endeavouring to put right.

The noble Lord says that there is no public feeling about this Bill, and that it has been brought on spasmodically. Since 1835 the question has been brought again and again and again before the House. It has been rejected thirteen times in the House of Lords. After the election of 1880 the sense of the House was taken on it, and a resolution was carried in its favour by a majority of 238 to 127. After the General Election of 1886, when the Liberal party was broken up, and when party ties to a certain extent were altogether swept away, it was thought advisable to take the opinion of the new House, elected on new conditions, on it. The Second Reading of the Bill was carried in 1888 by a majority of 239 to 182, and in 1890 by 222 to 155. As I have said, the Bill was rejected thirteen times in the House of Lords before 1896, but by decreasing majorities. The House of Lords, which of course would be susceptible to the influence to which the noble Lord alluded, however, carried this Bill in 1896 by a majority of 142 against 104. In that vote there were nineteen bishops, and it will be seen that the large majority of the temporal Peers were in favour of the Bill. The House of Lords has also passed the Colonial Marriage Bill, which was so ruthlessly denounced this afternoon. I have told the House the story of this controversy so far as Parliament is concerned. I will now return to the findings of the Royal Commission on the merits of the case. They found that these marriages were permitted in nearly every Protestant and continental State, and that although the Roman Catholic Church prohibited them as a matter of discipline, that the prohibition might be and was dispensed by the Pope, and others authorised by him, the prohibition taking place on the principle that it was the Church, and not the law of God, which imposed the prohibition, and therefore that the Church could, for fitting reasons, dispense with it. The noble Lord quoted a declaration by Cardinal Manning against these marriages; but he did not quote Cardinal Newman, who said—

> "If he looked upon this question as one affecting the rich, he should perhaps think the marriages inexpedient; but if in the interests of the poor, he thought they were expedient."

That was the opinion of Cardinal Newman, and no man will say that Cardinal Newman ever paltered with what he believed to be the divine law.

EARL PERCY: I do not think he stated that these marriages should be legalised by the State.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: I have quoted the words of Cardinal Newman, and the noble Earl may put any construction he likes on them. But I will quote a greater authority on Roman canon law than either Cardinal Manning or Cardinal Newman, and that is Cardinal Wiseman. He was examined before the Royal Commission of 1847, and he was asked—

> "Taking the question with reference to Scripture, is such a marriage [the marriage of a man with two sisters in succession] held by your Church as prohibited?"
>
> "Certainly not; it is considered as a matter of ecclesiastical legislation."

In another question he was asked—

> "Then the Commissioners are to understand that in your Church the general prohibition of these marriages is a matter of discipline, and permission to contract such marriages is granted, or not, according to what you may think most advantageous and proper?"
>
> "Certainly."
>
> "With respect to marriages of this description, do you find amongst Catholics that persons contracting such marriages are received with the same kindness and good feeling as persons who have contracted ordinary marriages?"
>
> "With a dispensation, perfectly so. It is not thought in any way disgraceful or improper the moment that the Church has given permission."

The whole tenour of Cardinal Wiseman's evidence is that in the case for which we are pleading, especially where there are children, dispensations were granted over and over again. That, then, is the view of Roman Catholics so far as their Church is concerned. I observe that the noble Lord and other Members who oppose the Second Reading of this Bill ignore all Christian opinion outside the Church of England.

EARL PERCY: I mentioned the Church of Scotland and the Confession of Faith.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: The Confession of Faith prohibits marriages with Papists and infidels. The noble Lord must know that two of the most distinguished divines that ever adorned the Church of Scotland—Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Norman Macleod—were both in favour of these marriages. Does the noble Lord include the English Nonconformists in the Church of Christ?

EARL PERCY: Certainly.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: Then, I say that they are practically unanimous in their views upon the subject, and are not in agreement with the noble Lord as to the true construction of Holy Scripture on this question. Then there is the American Church and the Churches of our own great colonies. America may be a new country, and our Australian colonies may be, as they have been described, ignorant, wayward, and youthful; but, at all events, they have sound scholarship and profound piety, and there again they are practically unanimous on this subject. In fact, the whole Protestant world outside one section of the Church of England is in favour of the lawfulness of these marriages. We heard it stated in the course of the debate that practically the Church of England was at one against these marriages. But how many bishops and archbishops and how many of the clergymen intimately acquainted with the deeds of the poor have expressed themselves in favour of them? What did Mr. Gladstone say with reference to the subject in 1869? He said—

> "When I consider the weight of testimony given by ministers of religion—among the most respected of their several communions—men among the Roman Catholics, the Nonconformists, the Established Church, High Church, and Low Church, including such a man as Dr. Hook, who might, perhaps, be described as the first parish minister of his day—when I consider the pressure of the motives which have induced so many persons who have had practical experience of the consequences pronounced by the present state of the law to support the proposed change, I do not shrink from the responsibility it would entail."

One word more. The Commission found that these marriages were legal in the United States, and quoted from Mr. Justice Story's "Conflict of Laws," in which he said—

> "In many, and indeed in most of the American States, marriages between a man and the sister of his former deceased wife are not only deemed in a civil sense lawful, but are deemed in a moral, religious, and a Christian sense lawful and exceedingly praiseworthy."

But in Mr. Justice Story's letter to the Commission he says—

> "Nothing is more common in almost all the States of American than second marriages of this sort; and so far from being doubtful as to their moral tendency, they are amongst us deemed the very best sort of marriages. In my whole life I never heard the slightest suggestion against them founded on moral or domestic considerations.

I suppose that all will consent that Mr. Justice Story was one of the most eminent men who ever sat on the judicial bench. But we are told that the Jews are against these marriages. If the Jewish community hold the interpretation of Leviticus placed upon it by the noble Lord it would be a very strong authority for that view. But the Royal Commission had the evidence of the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Adler, and he said that—

> "the marriage of a widower with the sister of his deceased wife is not only not con-

sidered as prohibited, but it is distinctly understood to be permitted, and on this point neither the Divine Law nor the Rabbis nor historical Judaism leave room for the least doubt."

He further said that—

"these marriages were considered proper, and even laudable, and that, when there are children, the usual time for remaining in widowhood is abbreviated in such cases."

Let me call the attention of the House to the final findings of the Royal Commission. They find that—

"these marriages are contracted by many persons of unimpeachable character and religious habits."

Further they find that—

"the feeling against these marriages is in a great measure founded rather on a vague and uninformed assumption that they are prohibited by God's Word than on a mature examination either of the Scriptures or the law of the Church. Among the poorer classes in a great majority of cases where the sister of the deceased wife becomes an inmate of the house the end is marriage or concubinage. When a poor man with a family has the misfortune to lose his wife some assistance for his domestic concerns become indispensable, assistance for which he cannot afford to pay and which must be rendered immediately. All circumstances and all feelings point to the sister of the dead wife, and when once she becomes a permanent inmate the result is inevitable."

EARL PERCY: Hear, hear.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: The noble Lord is quite within his right to dissent, but his opinion is not that of a large number of rectors and vicars of parishes where the poor prevail both in London and elsewhere. I am not going to put the matter entirely on the condition in society of those contracting these marriages. What I want to point out is this, that you have no right by a majority to found legislation of this character on the interpretation put upon one verse of Leviticus by one particular set of divines. This is a question which should be left to individual conscience. All the arguments against this Bill seem to be founded on the theory of compulsion, that we are going to pass a law to compel every man to marry his deceased wife's sister. Why should you interfere with the individual conscience? I would be no party to inflicting upon the clergy of the Church of England the injustice of compelling them to celebrate marriages which they believe to be forbidden. But are members of the community who do not accept the doctrines of these clergy to be compelled to accept a prohibition which they believe to be unauthorised? The noble Lord tells us that if the whole nation were knocking at the door of Parliament and asking for this one thing he would advocate the rejection of it. There is no infallibility in human judgment. The noble Lord appears to think there is; but I have not been able to find it in any monarchy or Republican legislature, not even in the House of Lords. So long as the constitution of the country is government of the nation through its representatives in Parliament, we must take that for better or for worse. And so long as the majority of this House is loyally adherent to constitutional government, we are bound to accept its decision.

Before I sit down I must say one word on a question which has occupied a good deal of attention, and that is the position of our colonies with reference to this subject. The noble Lord said "What have they ever done to show that they care about it? The whole agitation has been engineered here." I have a document signed by the present Prime Minister of the new Federation of Australia, Mr. Barton, by Mr. Deakin, Mr. Fyshe, Mr. Kingston, and by nearly all the members of the Commonwealth Cabinet. In that document they say, "In the agreement of the undersigned it is very desirable that the Colonial Marriages Act should be passed with the least possible delay." I am astonished at the noble Lord's statement as to the laws sanctioning these marriages. I take the South Australian Marriage Act. It says—

"Whereas doubts having arisen as to the validity of the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife, it is expedient to remove these doubts."

It is the same in Victoria, in Tasmania, in New South Wales, and in Queensland. I would be the last man to undervalue the Imperial spirit so far as our colonies are concerned. We are ready enough to avail ourselves of the assistance of our colonies when they show their loyalty. It must be remembered that the marriage law of the colonies is not a matter for themselves exclusively. Every law sanctioning these marriages passed by any Colonial Parliament was passed by the consent and with the authority of the British Crown. Mr. Gladstone, Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury advised Her Majesty to assent to these measures. It is monstrous to tell the people of this country that though laws sanctioned by the Sovereign, under the advice of the most eminent ministers of the Crown, might make these marriages legal, they are morally wrong. Mr. Speaker, there cannot be two standards of morality in the British Empire. What is morally wrong in London must be morally wrong in Sydney and Toronto. We are asked what is the hardship from which our colonial fellow subjects suffer? In the first place, when they come to their old home you give their wives the status of concubines, and you brand their children with the stigma of bastardy. The noble Lord shakes his head. Let me put this case. A younger son of a great family emigrates to Australia, where he becomes domiciled. He marries, loses his wife, and marries his deceased wife's sister, and that marriage is legal. They have a son, and in the course of time that son becomes heir to the estates and title which belongs to the head of that great house. But he cannot succeed. There is no question about the law. So far as real property is concerned—it may be different to personal property—the head of that noble house would be regarded as a bastard.

I will not further trespass on the time of the House in discussing the general trend of this measure. I believe it will be a great boon to a section of the community, possibly a small section, and I believe that it will also be a boon to a large section of the poorer classes of this country, who have no alternative but to live in sin because they cannot contract these marriages. I say that in justice to the widespread opinion that prevails in this country and throughout the whole of the British Empire, this House is not entitled, at the instigation of a minority, to use and abuse the forms of the House in order to prevent the repeal of a law which was enacted for the benefit of, I might almost say, an individual family, and which is upheld by the authority of a section which is not entitled to enforce its opinions, however conscientiously held, against the deliberate judgment of the nation.

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said he felt a difficulty in intervening in the debate after a speech of so much ability, eloquence, and passion as that just delivered by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton. He made no claim to be an antagonist of the right hon. Gentleman, but failing any other Member, he craved the indulgence of the House for a few minutes. The right hon. Gentleman had given them a most interesting historical survey of this subject, and had given them an account of Lord Lyndhurst's Act, which quite confirmed the opinion he had always held, that politics were in a very disreputable condition in the early part of last century, and that the Church of England was not altogether free from a contaminating atmosphere. But the right hon. Gentleman was too good a historian not to know that many of the best reforms in history had been associated with disreputable circumstances. The Habeas Corpus Act was passed for the protection of a not very creditable personage. The freedom of the press was due to a disreputable intrigue against the censor of that day. The law of marriage must not be judged on anything but its merits.

He knew that a distinction was drawn between consanguinity and affinity. He himself did not approve of the old ecclesiastical system by which a marriage had to be challenged in order to be made invalid. The right hon. Gentleman's argument went a good deal further than he was aware. Lord Lyndhurst's Act dealt not with the deceased wife's sister, but with the whole question of consanguinity. No distinction was made which had not previously existed in ecclesiastical law. Under the old ecclesiastical system marriages were, as Lord Brougham said, only voidable because they were void. It would have been foreign to the whole ecclesiastical idea that a marriage could be made void if it were not inherently void, and Lord Lyndhurst's Act, however disreputable its origin, merely put into a more reasonable form what had always been the law of Christendom from the earliest date.

He passed to the suggestion that the adoption by the colonies of Bills of this kind was an argument in favour of our welcoming a similar Bill. The right hon. Gentleman said we were bound by the assent given by the Crown to these Bills under the advice of Imperial Ministers, but he overlooked the fact that if we denied to the colonies every Act of a colonial Legislature which we thought objectionable we should destroy their right of self-government. The idea of that right was quite consistent with the possibility of its misuse. What was claimed by the right hon. Gentleman was that because a colony had injudiciously abused the right of self-government, we should cease to assert our right of self-government. Was this House and the House of Lords—the Parliament of the United Kingdom—not to make the same claim in behalf of our own local affairs? The right hon. Gentleman had said what was morally right in Melbourne could not but be morally right in London, but that argument might be used for the introduction of Mohammedan polygamy in England, and, on the other hand, was it supposed that we could put down polygamy in India? Of course, the Government of a great Empire must constantly submit to very serious breaches of the moral law, in order to carry out the constitutional ideal of government. Then there was the Roman Catholic argument. He confessed he was annoyed at hon. and right hon. Gentlemen in this House quoting the Roman Catholic Church in support of this question. But even in making these quotations they had misapprehended their force. When these hon. Gentlemen said that the Roman Catholic Church did not teach that these unions were not against Divine law, they misrepresented the position of that Church. The true state of the case was that the Church of Rome did not admit that the law of the Church was not Divine. On the contrary, the Roman Church claimed that the Church, under the direction of the Pope, was a Divine authority, and, therefore, that that authority, in that very high sense, might relax laws which it would be presumptuous for a State to relax. They knew that the Roman Church was against this Bill, and had opposed it as definitely and clearly as did the Church of England. Then there was the philanthropic argument—the argument of the poor man who found no one in the world fit to marry except his sister-in-law. That was a shallow and a hollow argument. He knew a man, who belonged to the lower middle class, whose sister-in-law had charge of his children, and he had lived with her for fifteen years without scandal and without imputation. That man told him he dreaded the passage of this Bill, because he knew that it would then be necessary for him to marry his sister-in-law in order to avoid scandal. There was not the slightest sign from the beginning of the whole discussion that any great body of the working classes cared two straws about this matter. That very day the right hon. Gentleman had been very angry with him for calling attention to the fact that there were scarcely forty Members present. Was that likely to happen when a great reform was demanded by the mass of the people? Everybody knew that the marrow of this agitation was to be found among a certain number of a particular class of wealthy people who had broken the law and wished to have their characters whitewashed by Act of Parliament.

He opposed this Bill on the grounds of expediency, and in the last analysis the grounds of expediency would be found to coincide with the grounds of morality. But he did not wish to conceal that the true ground of his opposition to this Bill was that it violated the Christian law of marriage. On what did that law rest? It rested upon the word of the Gospel. The Christian law of marriage, like many other parts of Christian doctrine, was partially revealed in the Old Testament; and it was completed, fulfilled, and developed in the New Testament. It was fulfilled and developed by the laying down of a great principle into that symmetrical and consistent system of law which the Church had for fifteen centuries unvaryingly maintained. That great principle was that the union between man and wife was as close as possible, that it transcended human reason, that it was of such a close and mysterious character that it could not be dissolved, and could not be repeated during the lifetime of the parties with another person. That principle also prohibited marriage with the relations of both parties to a certain degree. That great principle was laid down in the words, "these twain are become one clay." It was upon those words that the Church proceeded to build up her system of Christian law. If we rejected that system we must reject those parts of it relating to affinity, the principle of indissolubility of marriage, and even the principle of monogamy. For example, how difficult it would otherwise be to show that polygamy was against the Divine law. Polygamy was not expressly prohibited in the New Testament, but the prohibition arose out of only a reference to "one wife" by St. Paul. Apart from this fundamental principle, there was no logical foundation for these restrictions. For example, they could not reasonably deny that a man might marry his deceased wife's daughter—which, by the way, had already been admitted by a colonial Legislature—or his deceased wife's niece. He wished the right hon. Gentleman would explain the distinction between a deceased wife's sister and a deceased wife's niece.

*Sir **HENRY FOWLER**: I said the Act did not affect a deceased wife's daughter. I do recognise a distinction.

Lord **HUGH CECIL** said that the supporters of this Bill were distinctly not logical; they did not say that all the deceased wife's relations were eligible persons to marry. Therefore, they did not go the whole length of their argument. Their logical system was to set up one exception among the degrees of affinity, but on no principle whatever. He and those who agreed with him maintained that the Christian law of marriage was a Divine law, and it was an argument in favour of that view that it was a consistent law, based on broad principle. No such claim could be put forward by the promoters of the Bill. Their law was merely regulated by considerations of expediency. There was really no reason why they should not extend the scheme of the Bill. It might be said that there were social arguments in favour of polygamy of a most important character; and if once they admitted that, the whole marriage law was open to revision. There was no reason whatever why they should not admit a Bill to a Second Reading permitting the marriage of more than one wife.

Now, let him observe that the Christian law of marriage did not rest merely on its divine origin, but rested its claim also on its extraordinary success. He would have liked to quote from the "History of European Morals," by his right hon. and learned friend the Member for Dublin University, in which the author pointed out that, of all the benefits which Christianity had conferred on the world, the best was the degree to which it had raised the position of women. Therefore, the Christian law of marriage had been most successful in its influence upon society; step by step, it had lifted humanity to a higher and a purer level. When a systematic system of law, which depended on fixed principles, was under discussion, was not that a claim worthy of consideration?—a claim that it had been of infinite value for the progress of the human race. There were two principles on which man should be considered in relation to the law of marriage. They might say that man was an animal, whose marital position was to be regulated according to the physiological principles of the stud-farm. Or they might say that man was an immortal being, that the circumstances which surround him were profoundly mysterious, that the body was the meeting place between the spirit and matter, and that the laws directing these were in a large measure beyond the capacity of human comprehension. Therefore they should be guided by a law which had been eminently successful, and which had been laid down by Divine authority. He took his stand on the position that the Christian law of marriage was founded on the principles of the Christian Church. The promoters of the Bill took one out of thirty prohibited degrees, and said they would allow marriage within that degree, but by doing so they destroyed the logical basis of marriage. Why was that alteration to be made from considerations of colonial expediency or to favour the poor? This was a moral question, but, said the promoters of the Bill, "These unions do not seem shocking to us: to our moral sense there is nothing wrong in them." In effect, they declared that their moral sense was a complete answer to the whole Christian tradition.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: Your interpretation of Christian tradition.

LORD HUGH CECIL said that that was a very familiar position in all the disputes about private judgment. They invented an unsystematic Christian law of marriage—a law resting on no logical principle—and said that that was more likely to be the proper interpretation of Scripture than that which the Church had given for so many ages. Was that reasonable? How were they to accept these home-made Papal Chairs, and bow down to them as being infallible? The question was not between reason and authority. The question was between authority and authority—between the Church, whose tenets had come down to us with the sanction of saints and divines, and the respectable Gentlemen whose names were on the back of the Bill. He should be sorry to see this House departing from the principle which was associated with its most glorious traditions, the principle of adhering to the law of the Christian Church. In all the discussions in this House which had been fraught with issues of the utmost importance to the fate of the nation an appeal had constantly been made to the ecclesiastical and divine law—an appeal which had been listened to with effect and followed. He hoped the House would not depart from that great tradition. He hoped they would not set aside the great mass of the Christian traditions of the Christian Church in this matter, and regard the law of marriage in the same way as would the manager of the stud farm. He ventured to appeal to hon. Members whether in a matter of this fundamental character they would do well in supporting, on an occasion of this kind, and only after a few hours debate, a Bill brought in by hon. Gentlemen with only the authority of private Members. There was no law which so touched the future of the race as the marriage law; no other law which so immediately and directly affected the welfare of the race, and yet that was the law which might be altered by a chance vote of Parliament, and which was not safeguarded by the Constitution. He believed that was an error, and he maintained that this marriage law should be deemed to be a fundamental law not to be lightly altered or changed. Ever since this nation had existed, from Celtic times to the present, our country had been guided by the Christian law of marriage, and now, on a Wednesday afternoon, after only four hours debate, they were invited to overthrow that splendid tradition of moral progress. The Christian law of marriage had built a causeway across the morass of Eastern shame and lust, on which the race had paced onwards, slowly, between enlightenment and Empire, and now they were asked to set up something new in its place! Now they were going to tear down what angels had built up, so that they might walk between grossness and utility. He was persuaded that the House ought to think well before they adopted this Bill. They ought to reflect deeply and search their consciences and hearts as to whether they believed it to be in accordance with the divine will. And if they did so he was persuaded they would come to the conclusion that no act would be more dangerous to the civil prosperity of the country or more subversive of the future greatness of our race, than to repeal or tamper with that great fundamental and civilising law, the ancient Christian law of marriage.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): I congratulate the noble Lord on having, in a speech hostile to the Bill, avoided what I cannot help thinking is a great mistake—the use of strong language against those who are in favour of it. I think the noble Lord has been far wiser than those who preceded him in their opposition to this measure, in not imputing evil to those who differed from him. I would not at this hour of the afternoon detain the House at any length, mainly because the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton has been absolutely conclusive in its history and reasoning. There is one thing which I commend to the noble Lord and those who spoke with him. They object to this Bill mainly because they think there is a risk of there being some weakening in the general law and feeling with regard to marriage in this country. That is the real objection, and that is why they have used the strong language which we have heard to-day with regard to a measure which is really only for the purpose of altering the state of the law on a Wednesday afternoon in April back to what it was before it was altered late in the month of August seventy years ago. I wish hon. Members to reflect upon that.

Now, it is the case that in some portions of the world, in some countries connected with us, there has been a weakening of the marriage laws, and therefore we cannot say that it is impossible that some agitation of the kind might at some period rise up in this country upon the question which we are discussing to-day. There is absolute unanimity in this country with regard to the existing marriage laws. There is no desire to in any way weaken them, to in any way increase the risk of or the facilities for divorce or anything of that kind; but do not those who are opposing this measure think it is a mistake to keep in existence any real grievance which may exist against the existing marriage laws? So long as this grievance is kept in existence, so long will there be found a number of persons who think that such an alteration in the marriage laws is required; but once this great difficulty is put right, then there will be no personal feeling of any kind whatever, or any attack upon the laws of marriage of this country; and for that reason, in addition to the main reasons given by the right hon. Member for East Wolverhampton, and many other speakers to-day, I ask this House to pass this measure, and pass it by a good majority, so that we may put an end to all controversy with regard to the marriage laws of the country for the future. Those who profess to any acquaintance with the marriage laws of this country will agree with what has been stated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton, that there is a demand for the alteration proposed. You cannot have such a demand upon this as you would have upon a great constitutional change, because the number who desire to take advantage of the change is small, and men do not talk upon subjects of this kind openly in the market-place.

There is no real objection, I think, to the change in the mind of anybody. One argument against it is that it would interfere with the relations between a man and his wife's sisters. But how can that be, when at the present time we are told a large number of these marriages do take place? One hon. Member mentioned 1,000 instances in thirteen years. That number is sufficient to make it known that there is no real difficulty in marrying one's deceased wife's sister. I have known cases where men who were not living in great houses containing many rooms have not been able to have their deceased wife's sister to take care of their children in consequence of want of accommodation. I hope the House will not be led away by the eloquence of the noble Lord the Member for South Kensington, who has the usual confidence of youth in his opinions. I could not help thinking, when he told us that he represented the opinion of all the married women in England, that as time goes on, and he obtains a more intimate knowledge of the opinions of married ladies, he will not be able to speak with such absolute confidence. I hope this measure will be passed to day by a large majority, and that it will have a happy issue in another place, and that it will put an end once and for all to the only grievance—to the only thing that could ever arise to cause any re-opening of the marriage laws of this country, which in my opinion would be a serious misfortune.

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.), who spoke amid cries of "Divide," said he should not have intervened in the debate had not frequent reference been made to the fact that such a change had been made in the marriage laws of the colonies as was contemplated by this measure, and it had been argued from that that this country ought now to change its laws to suit those of our colonies. He was Governor of South Australia, which was the first colony to make such a change in the law, when the first Act was passed, and it was perfectly notorious when that measure was promoted in the South Australian Parliament, that it was got up from home, and supported by funds from home in the interests of certain people who had contracted illegal marriages in this country, and who, not being able to get a law in this country to suit their condition, thought that if such a change was made in the colonies it must necessarily operate here. They operated first in South Australia because the colony was known to be heterogeneous with regard to religion, and the Parliament there very impatient of any restrictions of laws founded upon ecclesiastical rules, and that therefore it was only necessary to tell them that the main objection to its being passed here was the fundamental law of the Church of England to make them say, "We have no Established Church here." Both parties in the House were responsible for this change in the colonies, such laws having been sanctioned under Lord Salisbury as well as other Ministers, but it was under the administration of the Colonial Office by Lord Kimberley, who was himself in favour of such a change, that the South Australian Act was passed. It naturally followed that, when the law was changed in South Australia, when other self-governing colonies passed similar Acts consent was not to be withheld. But he did not think the responsibility of giving consent in those cases was in the same degree as the responsibility of the Colonial Secretary who gave consent to the original measure. He did not think, however, that these marriages had become more prevalent in the Australian colonies in consequence of the passing of these Acts. In South Australia, for years after the Act was sanctioned, it became the practice of people in the other colonies who desired such marriages to resort to South Australia to avail themselves of the law, but even then there was only one clergyman of the Church of England who would solemnise such marriages, and he was not very much respected; and when he (Sir J. Fergusson) visited South Australia five years ago, he was informed that there was not a minister of the Church of England who would solemnise such marriages, and that the Presbyterians were just as strong in their objections. It was no proof that such marriages would be acceptable to the community to say that in some localities such unions had been frequent, because that with equal truth might be said of connexions of a still more objectionable character. No doubt in certain classes of society where respectability had been cast aside a certain amount of irregular marriages would always take place.

The line of argument upon this question, not for the first time, had been on the general grounds of Christian principles, and it would be deplorable if that were to be lost sight of, because it would certainly be a very serious danger to the morality of the country if we were to lose sight of the peculiarly sacred character of Christian marriage. He had no desire to go over the ground which had been taken by other speakers; his only desire was to draw attention to the considerations which he thought ought to be regarded when such a serious change in the law was contemplated. What would be the effect upon society, where the wife's sister was naturally regarded as the most proper guardian and protector of her sister's children in case of the wife's death? In all sections of society the wife's nearest relations occupied a position in the family closely resembling those of the blood relations of the husband. The husband's sister of course lived on most intimate terms with the family; so did the wife's. Without the slightest breath of scandal the husband lived on closely intimate terms with them. And in those cases the sister could come into the house and take the place which the wife occupied in her lifetime. During her sister's life she had been accustomed to that place, and upon her death the sister was its natural possessor. If this Bill passed, and upon the removal of the wife the sister could marry the husband, all these brotherly familiarities by the husband would be impossible; they would cause jealousy and suspicion, which would break up hundreds and thousands of homes. It would not be possible for the wife's sister to come and reside in a house as one of the family where she was likely to form these ties. He had known cases in humble houses where, the wife having been removed by death, the sister had come and taken charge of the children, and had lived there for years; and when the natural grief had passed away, the man had married, and the deceased wife's sister had gone back to her home. Such a thing would be impossible if the wife's sister was to be as open to the husband's addresses as any other woman. Those were considerations which could not be ignored; they were matters which were in the minds of everybody, and would have to be referred to over and over again if a change like this in the law was going to be made.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said there was one point he desired to urge in defence of the motion. Having had charge of the colonial Bill dealing with this subject he would venture to remind the House that the whole of the evidence in favour of that Bill came from the colonies. All the self-governing colonies unanimously demanded that the Bill should be passed. That showed that the Bill originated in the colonies, and brought the House face to face with the colonial view of this matter. Almost the whole world was in favour of the principles of the Bill. In America, France, and all the great continental countries, there was a demand for the change asked for by this Bill. England was the only country where marriage with the deceased wife's sister was not lawful. Except in the Church of England the feeling was in favour of the change. The wishes of the Church of England had been consulted in the Bill by the provision that no clergyman of that Church should be compelled to solemnise such a marriage. It appeared to him somewhat hard upon those who did not belong to the Established Church that they should not be accorded the privileges allowed by other countries. This matter had occupied the attention of the public for the last sixty years; it had been repeatedly passed through the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and he hoped on this occasion the Bill would be passed by a large majority.

Mr. FLOWER (Bradford, W.), who spoke amid repeated interruption and cries of "Divide," was understood to say that the whole of the speeches addressed to the House upon this subject seemed to suggest that there was an air of unreality in the proceedings. He could not help thinking that that air of unreality had been created by the reluctance of the House to grapple with what was the real question which underlay the proposals of this Bill, and every other Bill which dealt with the marriage laws of the country. What he would have liked to hear was an expression of opinion from the Government Benches. A Bill which dealt with the marriage laws of the country was dealing with a matter of transcendental importance, and it was to be deplored that there had been no expression of opinion from those responsible for the government of the country upon such an important—such a vital topic. He would have liked to hear from a responsible Minister that the Government realised the serious character of the legislation proposed to the House this afternoon. They could not have given better proof of their appreciation of its importance than by expressing their determination to ascertain precisely the difficulties that might arise through a change in the marriage law of the Empire. Speaker after speaker had referred to the colonies in their remarks, but when one came to consider the marriage laws of the Empire, there was not merely the fact that there were striking and curious differences between the marriage laws of this country and our self-governing colonies—there was also the fact that there were perhaps more striking and more curious differences between the marriage laws of the different parts of the United Kingdom itself. There were striking differences in the marriage laws of Scotland as contrasted with those of England, and also in the marriage laws of Ireland as contrasted with those of Scotland and England. All these subjects needed inquiry. The Royal Commission of 1868, in the words of Mr. Boyd Kinnear, reported that—

> "A good marriage law should embrace the maximum of simplicity and the maximum of certainty, simply because it affects almost every class and every person, the most humble and illiterate as well as the most exalted and learned; because it affects the contracts and social relations the most important that can arise between human beings; because it affects the foundation of society and influences the fate of innumerable individuals."

He regretted that the Government had not met the proposal for the second reading by announcing that they would appoint a Royal Commission on this subject. This Bill, if it passed, would only add to the existing confusion. In 1887 there was a conference of representatives of the colonies on the subject, and of the twenty-one who were present only six failed to recognise the unfairness of asking Great Britain to change her laws of inheritance to suit the convenience of the colonies. The representatives of Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Western Australia, and the Cape deprecated anything of the kind. The hon. Member was about to proceed with his speech, when

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 290; Noes, 106. (Division List No. 139.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.Herbert Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach, Rt.Hn.W.W.B.(Hants
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,T Gibson(King'sLynn)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell,RtHnJ.A(Glasgow)
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worcr
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Cox,Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliamTheodore
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elliot,Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Galloway, William Johnson
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'nd'y)
Hammond, John
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hatch, Ernest Fredk. Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir A. D.
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse,Henry(Somerset,E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jessel, Capt. Herb. Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W (Salop)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon.FrederickWm.
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.)
M‘Cann, James
M‘Crae, George
M‘Govern, T.
M‘Iver,SirLewis(Edinb'rghW
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
M‘Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigt'n
Mellor,Rt.Hon. John William
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mitchell, William
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley,Rt.HnJohn (Montrose
Morton,Edw.J. C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer,SirCharlesM(Durham
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor

Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Robinson, Brooke
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston. Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Col. Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (N'rth'nts
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell-(Birm
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'rsf'd)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Younger, William
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Brampton Gurdon and
Mr. Cathcart Wason.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allsopp, Hon. George
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Bull, William James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mlts, S. Geo.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Ldn)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elg'n & Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsd.
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
Malcolm, Ian
Milward, Colonel Victor
Minch, Matthew
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murnaghan, George
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni,
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tully, Jasper
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E. (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES-
Mr. Griffith-Boscawen and
Sir Mark Stewart.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 279; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 140.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doughty, George
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Faber, George Denison
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Galloway, William Johnson
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hn. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq of L'nd'nderry
Hammond, John
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
NacIver, David (Liverpool
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John Wm.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Minch, Matthew
Mitchell, William
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
Orr Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hon M. W. (Stalybridge

Rigg, Richard
Robinson, Brooke
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh'e
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer. RtHn. CR. (Northants
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Hareld John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u-Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, RtHnJPowell-(Birm
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, FredW. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse, Sir J T(H'dd'rsf'd
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Younger, William
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Cathcart Wason.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, RtHn. SirM. H. (Bristol)
Beach, Rt HnW. W. B. (Hants.)
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Caldwell, James
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Gl'sg'w
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Crean, Eugene
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R(T'rH'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. SirJ. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gunter, Colonel
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol, S.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, N.
M'Cann, James
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Milward, Colonel Victor
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Murnaghan, George
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rankin, Sir James
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, Henry Charles
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, Wm. Edw. T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G(Oxf'dUniv
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tully, Jasper
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Wharton, Rt. Hn. J. Lloyd
Whitmore, Chas. Algernon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Griffith-Boscawen and Sir Mark Stewart.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

It being Six of the clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at Six of the Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 25th April, 1901.

LORD DUNSANY.

Petition of Edward John Moreton Drax, Baron of Dunsany, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Poltimore took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT (WATER) BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

BIDEFORD AND CLOVELLY RAILWAY (ABANDONMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

OAKHAM WATER BILL [H.L.].

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Standing Order No. 92, considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a petition of Watford Urban District Council: Leave given to present the said petition.

BURY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (ACTON) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900, to enable the school board for Acton to put in force the Lands Clauses Act, was presented by the Lord Belper (for the Lord President [*D. Devonshire*]); read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 40.)

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Message from the Commons that they have appointed a Select Committee to consist of five members to join with the Select Committee appointed by this House, as mentioned in their Lordships' Message of the 26th of March last.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the Quarter ended 31st March, 1901.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

1. Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school.

2. Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

MARRIAGES LEGALISATION BILL [H.L.].

A Bill for legalising marriages heretofore solemnised in certain churches and places was presented by the Lord Belper; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next. (No. 39.).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered to-morrow, in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five of the clock till to-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 25*th April*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BILL
[By Order.]

As amended, considered.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) moved the rejection of Clause 27, which proposed to give the Great Eastern Railway Company power to contribute to the funds of a benefit society, ostensibly for the benefit of its workpeople. On the Second Reading of the Bill* a long discussion took place upon the clause, and he need therefore now only summarise the objections entertained to it by working men, and especially by those who were members of trade unions, who objected to being compelled to contribute to a fund over which they had practically no control. This particular fund came under that description. Great benefit societies—such as the Foresters, the Oddfellows, and the Rechabites—had been brought into being by the working men of this country to enable them to tide over times of sickness or accident. In connection with many trade unions there were similar funds, and he had therefore to submit that there was no sufficient reason why the Great Eastern, or any other railway company, should make special provision for its workpeople in that respect. There were, however, particular reasons why the House ought to reject this clause. The provident fund managed by the Great Eastern Railway Company had been in existence since 1851. In 1888 the fund was found to be insolvent. The members agreed to contribute an additional penny per week, and the company undertook to pay a subsidy of £2,500 a year towards the fund. In 1894 the insolvency had increased, and the deficit had risen to £24,000. In 1898 it had increased to £36,000, and an actuarial valuation for the present year put it as high as £50,000. The members of the society had raised their contribution, and the directors of the company had agreed to pay another £500 a year, but he understood that they had not paid a single penny. The directors had, in fact, made themselves responsible for a yearly contribution of £3,000, but his information was that they had not so far paid a single penny, and that if they had carried out their undertaking the society at the present moment would have been £30,000 better off. With regard to the existing society, membership was compulsory in certain grades of the service, and there was the further objection that if a man were dismissed, or left to improve his position, the service of the company, he lost all the money he had contributed to the society. One effect of the compulsory membership was that a man in receipt of the wage of 15s. or 16s. weekly, having to pay 11d. per week to the fund of the society, could not afford to keep up his membership of any outside organisation.

Now he came to this particular clause. It would be observed that the Great Eastern Railway asked power to contribute to the funds of the society, composed exclusively of their workpeople. What did that mean? It meant that a man who for years had served the company well and faithfully, and who, perhaps, for ten or twenty years had contributed to the fund of the society, would, if dismissed for some trifling offence, lose the whole of his contributions, and at the same time would be too old to join any other society. That was a most dangerous position in which to place a body of working men. But there was a still more serious objection to the clause. It would be found on examination that the contribution to the funds was only to be given on the condition that the funds were not used to pay workmen who were off work in consequence of any injuries received in the course of their employment. Thus a workman injured at his work, who would under the common law be entitled to sue for and receive compensation, was made to choose between the compensation to which he was entitled under the Act and the benefit he had contributed for in the case of the society. It was only reasonable to assume that in nine cases out of ten the workman, under the circumstances, would elect to take the benefit under the fund, and so he would relieve the

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* See *Debates*, Vol. xc., page 1523.

Great Eastern Railway Company of the responsibility which Parliament had put upon it to give compensation to its injured workmen. Surely it was most unjust to force them into such a position. He came next to what was, perhaps, the most serious blot upon the clause. There were certain words which provided that the company should make its contributions on such terms and conditions, and subject to such restrictions and reservations, as it might think expedient. On the face of it that appeared reasonable in an ordinary case, but what did it mean in this case? It meant that the Great Eastern Company would have the power to say before it contributed to the funds of the society that the men should be precluded from taking part in any public work. One employee of the company had been dismissed for allowing himself to be elected a member of the Poplar Borough Council, and other employees had been dismissed for signing a memorial in connection with the School Board. The employees could not afford to have a company doing things of this kind. The employees were bound down strictly enough in all conscience to the rules of the company. He held in his hand the book of rules issued by the company to their employees—a book containing 200 rules which were most strict—and he desired to know whether the promoters of the Bill, who had agreed to insert a clause in it that membership of the provident societies which had been established or authorised by the company should not be compulsory—were prepared to delete Rule 8 in the book of rules. By that rule employees of the company were required to join any society that might be established in accordance with the regulations of the company. If the promoters were not prepared to delete that rule, then there would be a conflict of authority between the Bill it was proposed to pass on the one hand, and the rules of the company on the other. He hoped, in the interests of the freedom of the employees, of thrift among workpeople, and of encouraging working men to take an active interest in their own affairs and thereby becoming better citizens and better workmen, the House would reject Clause 27. He begged to move.

*MR. BELL (Derby) said he thought he had made perfectly clear on the last occasion his position with regard to the Bill, and he now rose to second the Amendment of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, as he thought the proposal of the hon. Member was by far the simplest method of dealing with the Amendments contained in the Paper. The company appeared to seek power from this House to enable them to subscribe as it were to a new society yet to be formed. The objection raised by the railway men to any such proposal was that the company sought to become hon. members of such a society subject to such conditions and reservations as they deemed might be expedient. There was no objection to the Great Eastern Railway Company becoming hon. members of any society they pleased—most hon. Members of this House were hon. members of some society or other in their own constituency, but they sought no special conditions—and the opposition was only directed to preventing the company making any special conditions for themselves. He had received appeals from all parts of the Great Eastern system to use his influence to get this clause deleted. The company had in one of the clauses of the Bill which they agreed to accept before the Committee said that no scheme with regard to a benevolent fund should come into operation until it had received the sanction and come under the operation of the Friendly Societies Acts. They now proposed to vary and amend that in such a manner as to enable them to evade that obligation.

As an experienced railway man, who had joined these societies and left money in them when he left the companies, he could speak with authority upon this matter, and he asked the House, by the urgent request of the Great Eastern Railway men, to delete Clause 27, and thus prevent the men of the company being interfered with simply because they were not members of the society. The Chairman of Committees had stated that a clause or paragraph to deal with this might be inserted before the Bill went into Committee, but it appeared that it was to be inserted in such a way as to be of no value to the men who were opposing the measure, as although it was not obligatory for the employees to become members of the society, it was practically compulsory for candidates for employment to join it. The experience of the employees of the Great Eastern Railway fund was such that they did not want any more societies of the kind forced upon them. In order to save the time of the House, he thought it a very reasonable request to make that until such time as the directors and employees had agreed amongst themselves as to the nature of the society, and as to a form of rule that would be suitable to both parties, this clause should be deleted. If that were done, and the company came to the House next year for powers, he would support the compromise as strongly as he had opposed this clause.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 25, to leave out Clause 27."—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of the clause to the word 'not,' in line 13, stand part of the Bill."

MR. PENN (Lewisham) said that when the Bill was before the House last month this question had been thrashed out at very considerable length. A feeling was then strongly expressed that there should be no compulsion on the servants of the company to join the fund constituted by this clause. The company agreed that the words which were in the Lancashire and Yorkshire Act of 1897 should be inserted in the Bill, in order to make the understanding perfectly clear. These words were, "It shall not be compulsory upon any servant of the company to become a member of the society." The company thought that that would amply safeguard the employees of the Great Eastern Railway, and he was perfectly convinced that it did so. He therefore could not understand how opposition could be offered to this clause after the meeting they had had, and after this agreement had been come to.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said he had not been consulted, and had been a party to no agreement; nor had he been aware that any agreement had been come to.

MR. PENN said he was put in a somewhat difficult position, because he really did not know exactly how many of the employees of the Great Eastern Railway were represented by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, nor did he know for how many employees the hon. Member for Derby spoke.

*MR. BELL: For several thousands.

MR. PENN said that there were tens of thousands in the employment of the company, a very large number of whom were perfectly satisfied with their conditions of service, and it was scarcely possible for one man to represent all the interests of the employees. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil had said that if a member of the provident fund left the employment of the company all the money which he had paid into the fund would be for ever lost to him. But Rule 35 of the Great Eastern provident fund made it absolutely clear that any member leaving the society, except for some criminal offence, should be entitled to take away with him all contributions he had made.

*MR. BELL said he understood the hon. Member to say on the last occasion that no rules had been drafted for the new society.

MR. PENN said he was only endeavouring to put right that which had been advanced by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, and which, if uncontradicted, would be a great stigma and slur on the Great Eastern Railway. The men were entitled to take away their contributions if they left the service of the company.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Subject to what deductions?

MR. PENN said there was a very small deduction for the risk incurred while the men were members of the society, and that was a perfectly fair rule. Another point the hon. Member had made was that the company had promised to make a certain payment to the society, but had not done so in fact. Well, the money was credited to the fund under a sealed agreement with the members of the fund, and if any occasion arose it would be a first charge on the company's resources. He should object to the omission of the clause.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) wished to ask the hon. Gentleman whether the company would withdraw Rule 8, under which a servant was required to join any society the company might establish.

MR. PENN said that that rule did not affect the proposed society at all.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT pointed out that, while the regulations were handed to all the men in the employment of the company, and to the men who wanted to join the company, the Acts of Parliament which regulated the proceedings of the company were not so easy to obtain; and railway porters at 12s. or 15s. a week had no means of knowing what was in those Acts. Would the company undertake to alter Rule 8, which made it compulsory on servants to join any fund?

*SIR JOSEPH PEASE (Durham, Barnard Castle) said he had come down to the House in order to support the Chairman of Ways and Means in the kind assistance he was pleased to give to the promoters of the Bill and those opposed to the original clause. He thought the words proposed to be introduced through the kind aid of the Chairman of Ways and Means were satisfactory. But the hon. Member for Merthyr had pointed out a very different case—the obligatory rule, No. 8, which seemed to have been long in existence, and which took him, as a railway man, a good deal by surprise. That rule said that if a benefit society was established by the company, the servants were required to join it in accordance with the regulations. Now, in his opinion, these societies must not be compulsory. If they were to work at all they must work with the full approval, and with the help of the men themselves. He used "help" advisedly, for the men and representatives of the company should work together for the benefit of both parties. They should not have a clash of interests. Therefore, it was not unreasonable to ask whether, if this Bill were passed, this rule would be taken out of the regulations. It seemed to him to be a very arbitrary rule, and one which the Great Eastern Company would, in these modern days, never think of acting upon. If the Bill were passed as amended, and if this rule were altered, then everything would have been gained which the men could fairly ask.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he would take advantage, in the agricultural interest, of the opportunity of calling the attention of the House to the differential rates demanded by the Great Eastern Railway Company.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That would not be relevant.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said that if the Amendment suggested by the Chairman of Ways and Means were carried, and Rule 8 were left intact, the company would have a stultifying code. He wanted to know if the clause covered new as well as existing servants of the company.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) thought they were in some confusion on this matter. The last debate on the question was whether the rule should be made compulsory or not. He was not a shareholder in the company, and had no interest in the matter except as a scheme for promoting thrift. This clause was to enable the railway company to contribute, which it was very willing to do, to practically a new fund, established to confer various benefits on the employees. It appeared that the old fund had some rules which seemed to have been of a somewhat drastic character, but this Act, with the clause inserted by agreement, would override the old rules. [Cries of "No."] He thought there could be no question about it. If an Act of Parliament said categorically that the railway company was not to compel its servants to join a certain society, then that abrogated the old rules.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he was in some difficulty about this matter. When the Bill was introduced and the subject first debated, the Great Eastern Railway Company ought to have been the first to acknowledge that this provident fund should not be compulsory on their servants. That, however, they did not do, having thoroughly misapprehended the feeling of the House; and they only consented to make the scheme non-compulsory because they realised they would lose their Bill altogether unless they did so. But he had grave suspicion in regard to what the Great Eastern Company had in their mind on this matter. Into the hands of every servant of the company was placed a copy of the rules and regulations of the company. No. 8 of these rules said that any fund of this sort either in the past or the future should necessarily be compulsory on the servants of the company. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Lewisham had been asked twice over by different hon. Members whether the company intended to adhere to the rule or not, but he had given no reply. They wanted to know, moreover, whether the clause in the present Bill would override the rule. Unless the hon. Gentleman gave a distinct assurance that the company were going to act in spirit and in letter up to the opinion and desire of the House, and to the terms of this clause, and also that Rule 8 should be withdrawn, he certainly should vote against the clause under discussion.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) appealed to the hon. Member for Lewisham to promise to withdraw Rule 8, against which the men were unanimous. A good and constant railway service could never be carried on unless the men were entirely contented with the rules by which they were governed.

Colonel LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil was under a misapprehension when he said that when a man left the service of the Great Eastern Railway he forfeited the benefits of the society. Rule 35 distinctly stated that any member of the society quitting the company's service could still remain a member of the society provided he continued to pay into it. The hon. Member for Poplar was not quite fair in his remarks about the Great Eastern Railway Company. There was nothing to justify him in saying that the company wished to evade their responsibilities. He was right in stating that they intended fully and honourably to carry out in spirit and in letter the obligations they had undertaken to this House. He understood that the hon. Member for Lewisham had assented to that. [Cries of "No."] Then he gave that assurance now.

Mr. PENN said it might save the time of the House if he stated that the company were prepared to make an alteration in the particular regulation under discussion so as to remove obligation from any servant to join the society.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.) said that before going to the vote this should be made perfectly clear. It was said that this was introduced in the interest of the employees. As a matter of fact, they knew that the employeés were distinctly against it. Now, the hon. Member said he would alter the new conditions under which the men joined the society, but the men objected to be bound by any conditions for joining the society. This particular clause struck at all friendly societies throughout the country. It damaged those societies in the interest of the railway companies, in order to place the men definitely in the power of their employers. This section did not apply to the new rules. The funds which were supplied by the men were invested in the company. In other words, the profits from the savings of the men, instead of going into the pockets of the men, went into the pockets of the shareholders. Then, again, it was stated that a man who cleared out of the company might continue to be a member of the society, so that he suffered no damage; but that provision did not meet the objections of the men. He hoped that all those who had the interests of the men at heart would vote for the deletion of the section.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 213; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 141.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashtin, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGerald W(Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Beach,RtHonW.W.B.(Hants.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell,RtHn.J.A(Glasgow
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas.Edw.H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,SGeo.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir JOsephCockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes,Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHnSirJ(Manch'r
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flower, Ernest

Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(City ofLond
Gordon,Hn.JE(Elgin,&Nairn)
Gordon,Maj Evans- (T'rH'lets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare,Ed. Brodie(Hampstead
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther,RtHnJW(Cum.,Pen.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Calmont,Col.J.(Antrim,E.
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Mellor,Rt.Hon.John William
Middlemore,JohnThrogmor'n
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morris,Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.

Murray,Rt.HnAGraham(Bute
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer,SirCharlesM(Durham
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Pease,SirJoseph W. (Durham)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hon.M.W(Stalybridge
Robertson, Herbert Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott,Sir S.(Marylebone,W.)
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C. (North.Tyneside)
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W.H.
Young, Commander (Berks,E.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Boulnois and Mr. Banbury.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John

Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Loyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)

O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merty'r
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N,
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudder'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Keir Hardie and
Captain Norton.

Mr. GRAY (West Ham, N.) pointed out that Clause 27 gave power to the directors of the company to subsidise the men's provident fund, provided always that certain benefits were excluded. He thought it very desirable that the directors should be able to make their contribution to the fund, even though the fund had a wider basis than was at first anticipated. The promoters of the Bill had no objection to the Amendment he had placed on the Paper, and he moved accordingly.

Mr. PENN formally seconded.

Amendment proposed.

"In Clause 27, page 25, line 13, after 'sickness,' leave out 'not arising from injuries in respect of which such members are entitled to compensation from the company by statute or common law, or under the Great Eastern Railway Accident Fund Scheme.'"—(*Mr. Gray.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. BELL said that as the House had decided against deleting the clause in order that the company and the workpeople might come to terms, he desired to move, for the reasons he had already explained, the omission of the words from "section," in line 24, to "to," in line 25, so that if the company, under the powers conferred by the Bill, were honest in their intention, and had no other purpose than to be honorary members of the society, they would be allowed to subscribe without making terms, conditions, or reservations as they thought proper, or in any way having a veto on the acts of the men in the management of the society.

Amendment proposed—

"Clause 27, page 25, line 24, to leave out from the word 'section' to the word 'to' in line 25."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. PENN, in opposing the Amendment, said that, as the promoters of the Bill were asking for sanction to make a payment towards the fund to be set up under Clause 27, it was only right that the directors should have a certain voice in the management of the fund. No serious objection could possibly be taken to the words of the clause, and therefore he could not agree that they should be deleted.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 142.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach,Rt. Hn.SirM. H.(Bristol
Beach,Rt. Hn. W. W.B.(Hants
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Gl'sg'w
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, IrwinEdwardBainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt.Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hon.AGH(CityofLond.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(Lond'nd'ry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. RobertWm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Edw.Brodie(Hampst'd)
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (York, N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col. W.Salop.
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, Rt.HnJW(Cum.,Pen
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles(Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Mellor,Rt. Hon.John William
Middlemore,JohnThrogm'rton
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper (Shropshire
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert

Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone,W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,HC(North'um.Tynes'de
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(Taunt'n
Wharton, Rt. Hon.JohnLloyd
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham-Quin, Major W.H.
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Boulnois and Mr. Banbury.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P.(Glouc.,Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, PatrickGeo.Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar,JohnA.(Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (DerbyCo.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter,Rt.Hon.Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope,J.F.(Sheffi'ld, Brightside
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvons.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morton ,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. J. P (Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer,Sir Chas. M. (Durham
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Sir Joseph W.(Durham
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.

Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Bell and Mr. Goddard.

Another Amendment made.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): I rise to move an Amendment which is not on the Paper, but I need not take up more than a few moments in explaining the point. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill stated in a most fair and honourable manner that the Great Eastern Railway Company would be willing to alter their rules in this respect. No doubt it was felt that an undertaking of that kind was given in a perfectly honourable spirit, but the matter was rather vague, and it is desirable to put it on record. It seems to me that up to a certain point we might obtain a Parliamentary record by inserting on page 26, Clause 27, in Sub-section O, the words "notwithstanding anything contained in any rule of a railway company." Although it is perfectly true that you cannot expect working men to know the contents of the complicated sections of an Act of Parliament, so far as an Act can bring it to their notice the insertion of these words would carry out that intention as far as possible. I have no hesitation in moving this Amendment, and I sincerely hope that the hon. Member opposite in charge of the Bill, who I think is very anxious to meet us in a conciliatory spirit, will agree to accept these words.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 26, Clause 27, Sub-section D, to insert the words 'notwithstanding anything contained in any rule of a railway company.'"—(*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I think my hon. friend the Member for Lewisham might accept this Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. BELL said that the clause as it stood at present only applied to servants already in the employment of the company. It would be seen that, by rule 8, servants pledged themselves to become members of the society appointed by the company, and the alteration which he asked the Committee to adopt was intended to prevent the men being compelled to join the society. With the view, therefore, of protecting those who might in the future obtain employment under the company he begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 26, Clause 27, line 5, to leave out Sub-section D, and insert the words, 'Membership in the society shall not be made a condition of employment by the company, nor shall any discrimination be made against employees who do not join,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. PENN said he did not feel justified in accepting this Amendment. The form of words in the Clause had worked smoothly and given great satisfaction since 1897 in two railway Acts now running, and he failed to see any improvement in the words suggested by the hon. Member for Derby. The second part of the Amendment provided—

"Nor shall any discrimination be made against employees who do not join."

He was a little at sea as to what that meant, and he was afraid it would only lead to trouble and cause confusion and litigation between employer and employed.

MR. GRAY said there was one point in the Bill on which he should like to be quite clear, and that was with regard to the application of the clause as it now stood. He was disposed to think that the clause as it now stood would apply to those already in the service only; but it would not prevent the company saying to new applicants: Will you join the fund? taking one man who consented, and rejecting another who refused. He had no doubt that the Bill before them was intended to cover such a case as that, but it was doubtful indeed whether it was covered. It was not open for him to move an Amendment, as there was now one before the House. He recommended that the hon. Member for Derby might secure the incorporation of the first half of his Amendment without any injury. He was told that the directors had no idea whatever of applying such a test to applicants for employment, and, if that was so, why should they object to the introduction of words to make that clear to everyone who sought employment?

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith) said he was rather astonished at the action the hon. Member for Derby had taken. The words the hon. Member now sought to be struck out were put in after he had seen and considered them, and with his full approval. Under these circumstances it seemed somewhat peculiar that he should now seek to strike out these words.

*MR. BELL said he should like to put himself right on that matter. He thought he distinctly suggested to the right hon. Gentleman, to the hon. Member for Lewisham, and to the general manager of the company, two or three days after the last debate on the question, that something should be brought within the company's rules and regulations that this should not apply to new candidates for employment in the service of the company. Nothing was definitely promised, and he was not satisfied with the words after he saw them in print. He now found that the words would only apply to those already in the company's service; still, there were rules of the company which would give a preference to those who would agree to join the society on applying for occupation. It was to meet that case that he moved the Amendment.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said that, after what they had just heard from the right hon. Gentleman the Chairman of Committees, he was glad that his hon. friend the Member for Derby had freed himself from the imputation of bad faith. The hon. Member agreed to accept a certain compromise provided the clause was retained in the Bill. He did not see the form of words proposed to be embodied.

MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I beg pardon. The form of words was shown to the hon. Member in print.

*MR. BELL: Subject to the alteration of the rules of the company.

MR. J. W. LOWTHER: There was no condition attached whatever.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said he wished to point out that this Amendment consisted of two parts, and the second part was an important one, namely, that no discrimination should be made against employees who did not join the society. He was exceedingly astonished to hear the Member for North-West Ham speak in opposition to this clause. As a trade unionist the hon. Member ought to be aware that one of the greatest difficulties in the way of organisation was the fear of punishment being meted out to employees who did or did not perform some act they were asked to do. It would be easy for the directors to refuse promotion to an employee who did not join the society. As was well known, most employees were entitled to an advance of wages periodically. It would be an easy matter to hold back an advance of wages to an employee who did not join the society. There would be nothing in the rules or the clause to prevent that being done unless the Amendment were accepted. He hoped that the hon. Member for Lewisham, who had gone so far, would not stop at going one step further, so as to make it clear to the employees that no compulsion or pressure, direct or indirect, would be brought to bear upon them to join the society, and that they would not be punished in any way if they refused to join.

MR. TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) appealed to the hon. Member for Lewisham to allow this Amendment to pass. The company either meant to discriminate between the men or they did not. If the latter part of the Amendment was not adopted suspicion would be created against the directorate of which he thought they were not worthy. Why not adopt the Amendment? It would give them credit for what they meant to do.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 225; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 143.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (Glasgow
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City o' Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn.
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn L'd G. (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir William H.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cum. Penr
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Macartney, Rt. Hn W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverp'l)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Middlemore, John T.
Milton, Viscount
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jas. (Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharpe
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hon M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Lousis (Romford)
Smith, H. C (North'mb. Tynes'e

Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Tomlinson, William Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Commander (Berks, E.
Younger, William
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Boulnois and Mr. Banbury.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John T.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delaney, William
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-shire)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst.
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydv'l
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, J. D. (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, Edw. J. C (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings
Thompson, E, C. (Monaghan, N.
Tomkinson, James
Treveln, Philya Charlesips
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Bell and Mr. John Wilson (Durham).

Bill to be read the third time.

PRIVATE BILLS (PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISION) (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for additional Provision in the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—

Dorking Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

LONG EATON GAS BILL.

Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Fourth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

WELLS CORPORATION WATER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

WELLS WATER BILL.

Reported [Parties do not proceed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

CARDIFF CORPORATION BILL

TENDRING HUNDRED WATER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

THAMES DEEP WATER DOCK BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

GLASGOW AND RENFREW DISTRICT RAILWAY TRANSFER BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY (DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).

Mr. HARGREAVES BROWN reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills, That the parties promoting the London County Council (Spitalfields Market) Bill had stated that the evidence of Mr. John Collins was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Mr. John Collins do attend the said Committee this day.

Ordered, That Mr. John Collins do attend the Committee on Group A of Private Bills this day.

LEATHERHEAD GAS BILL.

PETERSFIELD AND SELSEY GAS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

BARRY RAILWAY BILL

"To extend the time for the completion of certain railways of the Barry Railway Company," read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to dissolve the Omagh Gas Company; and to incorporate and confer powers on a new Company." Omagh Gas Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to alter and amend certain provisions of the Deed of Constitution of the Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society; and for other purposes." Bristol, Clifton, and West of England Zoological Society Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further provisions with reference to and to confer further powers on the undertakers of the Aire and Calder Navigation; to amend the Acts relating to their undertaking; and for other purposes." Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to constitute and incorporate a joint water board for the urban districts of Aspatria and Holme Cultram, in the county of Cumberland, and to authorise such joint water board to construct works and to supply water to those and adjacent districts; and for other purposes." Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [Lords].

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Alfreton Gas Company; and for other purposes." Alfreton Gas Bill [Lords].

And also a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Shields Bridge Company; and for other purposes." Shields Bridge Bill [Lords].

OMAGH GAS BILL [Lords].

BRISTOL, CLIFTON, AND WEST OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BILL [Lords].

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [Lords].

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [Lords].

ALFRETON GAS BILL [Lords.]

SHIELDS BRIDGE BILLS [Lords].

Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

NEWRY PORT AND HARBOUR TRUST BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. Arthur Elliot reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills; That, to meet the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock; Report to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP G).

Sir James Woodhouse reported from the Committee on Group G of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at Eleven of the clock; Report to lie upon the Table.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY (SUBSTITUTED BILL).

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

BURIAL PLACE (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Paisley in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COAL.

Petition from Newport (Monmouthshire), against proposed Customs Export Duty; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Bretton; Stanhope Silkstone; Barrow Hemætite; Carlton Main; Darfield Main; Corton Wood; New Oaks; and Agecroft (No. 3) Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Wolverhampton, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (NEW CODE OF REGULATIONS FOR DAY SCHOOLS).

Petition from Leicester, for alteration of Article 101 (*g*); to lie upon the Table.

GUN LICENCE DUTY.

Petition from Birmingham, for exemption of members of Civilian Rifle Clubs; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Barking; Barry; and London (two); to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Paisley, against; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against; from Cirencester and Sydenham; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Great Mountain; Park; Trimsaran; Pantycelyn;

Pentremawr; Caerbryn; Pontyberem; Fence; Darfield Main; Barrow Hemætite; Bretton; New Oaks; Corton Wood; Stanhope Silkstone; Carlton Main; Ty Trist (No. 1); Tillery; Pochin (No. 1); Arral; Arral Greffin; White Rose; Whitworth Pit; Whitworth Drift; Agrecroft (No. 3); Rose Heyworth; Coalbrook Vale; Celyner; and Cwmtillery Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Seghill, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Forres, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against, from Aberdare (three); Biggleswade; Gainsborough; Peterborough; and Bridgwater; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Goole; Newton Heath; Penarth (three); Barry (four); Cadoxton; Sheffield (two); Scarborough (five); Willenhall (thirteen); Hanley; British Temperance League; Sandwich; Rawmarsh; Leicester; and Cupar Angus; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Drainie; Montrose; Golspie; and Paisley; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petitions against, from Bo'ness and Dysart; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT ACT, 1900, No. V.)

Paper [presented 18th April] to be printed. [No. 135.]

QUEENSLAND (THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTIONS ACT AND THE ELECTIONS ACTS 1885-1898 AMENDMENT ACT, 1890).

Paper [presented 18th April] to be printed. [No. 136.]

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT).

Copy presented, of Report for the year 1899, Vol. XLI. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Report by Major General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B., on the operations of the Ninth Division at Paardeberg [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2577 and 2578 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy ordered, "of Statement of the Amount expended by Boards of Guardians for In-maintenance and Out-door Relief in England and Wales during the half-year ended Lady Day, 1901."

"And, similar Statement for the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1901."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

ULTIMUS HÆRES (SCOTLAND) (ACCOUNT AND LIST OF ESTATES).

Return ordered, "of Abstract Account of the Receipts and Payments of the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in Scotland in the year ended the 31st day of December, 1900, in the administration of Estates and Treasure Trove on behalf of the Crown."

"And, of Alphabetical List of Estates which fell to the Crown as Ultimus Hæres in Scotland administered by the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in the same year."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—ADMINISTRATION OF NATIVE AFFAIRS IN ANNEXED REPUBLICS.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the

Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any steps have yet been taken, or are immediately to be taken, in reference to native affairs at Pretoria or Johannesburg; whether he has before him any report on the native reserves and locations in the Transvaal and Orange Colonies; whether he can yet state what measures His Majesty's Government intend to take to fulfil their pledge as to the welfare of the natives; and whether Parliament will be given an opportunity of discussing the measures proposed to be taken for the welfare of the natives in the annexed territories before such measures are finally adopted.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The only step which has been taken in this direction up to the present time is the appointment as native commissioner of Sir Godfrey Lagden, who displayed exceptional ability in the management of the natives of Basutoland before and during the war. As regards the administration of native affairs, any steps which have been taken, or may be taken in the early future, will be of a purely provisional character.

BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN NATAL.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that numbers of European refugees have been permitted to return from Natal to the Transvaal and open their shops there, but that no permits have been granted to refugees being Indian British subjects; and whether he will make inquiry as to the reasons for this difference in the treatment of traders, and give such instructions as may be required.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am awaiting a reply to a telegraphic inquiry which I have addressed to Sir Alfred Milner on the subject at the request of the hon. Member for North-East Bethnal Green.

JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF CHARTERED COMPANY.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the debtors in debts due to the late Transvaal Government other than the Chartered Company are to be exempted from payment thereof; if they are not to be exempted, what is the distinction in principle drawn between the claim against the Chartered Company and that against any other debtor; if they are to be exempted, is there any precedent known to him or to his advisers for such exemption; and, if such precedent exists, will he give it.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: There is no intention of exempting debtors from the payment of debts due to the Transvaal Government which are legally enforceable. The claim of the South African Republic against the Chartered Company was not an acknowledged debt, and there is no parallel between the cases stated.

MR. BLACK: In every case in which the debt is disputed will it be forgiven?

[No answer was returned.]

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Borough): Will the right hon. Gentleman appoint a day for me to call upon him and inspect all the Papers in connection with the Jameson Raid, in order——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the bubonic plague now raging in Cape Town and its vicinity has assumed serious proportions; whether the statistics published of those who had taken this disease and of those to whom it has proved fatal are confined to cases in Cape Town itself; and whether he can state the numbers in Cape Colony who have been affected with and who have succumbed to this disease; and whether he will include the total number of the sufferers from this disease and the deaths caused by it in the published weekly returns.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The publication of statistics is a question within the province of the Government of the Cape Colony, but I am asking the Cape Government if they will supply in the weekly bulletin the additional information as to the total numbers of those affected by and of the deaths from the disease which the hon. Member desires.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that the German authorities have already taken action to prevent the infection from bubonic plague now raging in Cape Colony reaching German ports; and whether any steps have been taken to prevent infection reaching this country in ships bound to this country from South Africa; and, if not, whether any such precautionary measure is contemplated.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this question. I am aware of the action taken by the German Government. Arrangements are made by the sanitary authorities at the ports in this country for the examination of all vessels coming from places affected with plague, and for taking such action as may be necessary for dealing with persons or things on board from which danger of infection is apprehended. Special memoranda prepared by the medical officer of the Local Government Board with respect to plague have been issued to the local authorities, and such further advice and instructions as may from time to time be found requisite will be issued to them. Where exceptional circumstances render it expedient, it is my practice to send a medical inspector to confer with the port authorities and their officers.

BOER PRISONERS—INTERNMENT IN INDIA.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has taken measures to secure that none of the charges consequent upon the detention of Boer prisoners in India, for example, the salaries of persons employed in their supervision, shall be charged on the revenues of India.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The Government of India have been instructed that "all cost will be borne by Imperial Government." I have not considered it necessary to give more detailed instructions.

BEER RATIONS FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS.

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER (Suffolk, Sudbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the military authorities have arranged to supply beer rations in place of rum to soldiers *en route* to or from foreign stations; whether a contract has recently been completed for a quantity of ale for the troops returning from South Africa; and, if so, whether he will state to what firm or firms the supply has been entrusted; and what precautions have been adopted to ensure that the liquor be brewed from barley-malt, and hops only.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): A contract has been made for beer for issue to troops returning from South Africa in lieu of a ration of rum, upon a requisition received from the War Office, for 7,000 hogsheads of bitter beer of a certain strength, without any stipulation as to the ingredients. Offers were requested from ten of the principal brewers, eight tenders being received. Of the total quantity of 7,000 hogsheads, 6,200 were ordered from Ind, Coope and Company, Limited, of Burton, who stated, in explanation of their quotation, that they would supply best Burton brewed beers manufactured from the finest malt and hops free from all chemicals and deleterious ingredients. The remaining 800 hogsheads were ordered from Watney, Combe, Reid and Company, Limited. No stipulation was considered necessary in view of the standing of the firm. The breweries are to be visited by the Inspector of Victualling Stores, who will examine the beer.

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER: Is it not the case that, until quite recently, tender forms for the supply of beer for the troops stipulated that it should be brewed from barley-malt and hops only?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I cannot answer that question without notice.

WAR EXPENDITURE—DETAILS.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for

War if he will now give a few heads of the £140,000,000 Bill presented by Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer for the South African War; and if he will inform the House how many millions have been spent on shipping; on animals; on food; on forage; on officers' pay; on soldiers' pay; on auxiliaries' pay; on arms and ammunition; on vehicles, engines, railways, and tools; and on tentage and camp equipage respectively.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The figures are as follows for the services named—

	Total Estimated Millions.	Total Spent Millions.
Shipping	22¾ ..	14¼
Animals	11 ..	8
Food	20¼ ..	12¼
Forage	11½ ..	6¼
Officers' Pay	2 ..	1¼
Soldiers' Pay	10 ..	5¼
Auxiliaries' Pay ..	13¾ ..	8
Arms and Ammunition	7¼ ..	5¼
Vehicles, Railways, &c.	6 ..	3¼
Tentage and Camp Equipage	2¼ ..	1
Total ..	106¾ ..	64¾

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how much of the money was spent in the United Kingdom among the people who have to find it?

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid I cannot.

BOER REFUGEE CAMPS.

MR. OSMOND-WILLIAMS (Merionethshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the Report of Dr. M'Kensie (brother of the Military Governor), and of Dr. Johnston, to the treatment of the women and children at the Boer refugee camp at Johannesburg, saying that the food there was unfit for human consumption, and the death rate among these women and children unusually high; and whether he proposes taking any steps to better their condition.

*MR. BRODRICK: I am aware of the Report mentioned. As regards the food, there were complaints at first, but the food was identically the same as that supplied to our own soldiers, and at the time, owing to the state of the railway lines, some hardship was unavoidable. The food has been for some time wholesome and sufficient. As regards the death rate, it is not the fact that it was abnormally high; figures have been telegraphed for, but from the information at present at my disposal it would appear that much of the sickness among the refugees had arisen before their arrival in camp, and further, that their health was steadily improving owing to the steps taken by the authorities with a competent medical staff.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state when he will be able to grant the Return asked for as to the Members of both Houses of Parliament who volunteered for active service in South Africa

*MR. BRODRICK: This Return involves reference to South Africa, and as no public purpose would be served by it, I am not prepared to burden overworked officers in South Africa with preparing the statistics in question.

MR. TULLY: Would the right hon. Gentleman grant the Return if I omitted the column as to wounds and casualties?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir.

PUBLICATION OF DESPATCHES.

MR. YOUNGER (Lincolnshire, Stamford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state when the despatches from the General Officer Commanding the 8th Division, South African Field Force, will be made public.

*MR. BRODRICK: It is not proposed to publish any further despatches for operations prior to the 29th November, 1900.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will now lay upon the Table the written despatch from Lord Kitchener giving his account of his conversation with General Botha upon 28th February last; and whether the Government has received a copy or abstract of General Botha's despatch to his own superiors giving his account of the same interview, or of that commenting upon the subsequent written communication sent him by Lord Kitchener.

*Mr. BRODRICK: We have received no copy of General Botha's despatch to his superiors, and it is not proposed to lay any further Papers on the subject.

Mr. BLACK: The right hon. Gentleman has not replied to the first part of my question.

Mr. BRODRICK: I do not think we can lay anything on the Table which has not been laid.

Mr. BLACK: Is there anything in the despatch beyond what was published in the telegraphic communication?

Mr. BRODRICK: As far as I know, the Papers which have been laid on the Table give all the information.

TRANSVAAL WAR SUPPLIES.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether all the documents and papers relating to the armaments of the Transvaal Republic, the guns and ammunition ordered and delivered, and the dates when purchased, were found by the British Military authorities in the Boer Government offices on the occupation of Pretoria; and whether, among such papers, there are documents relating to the purchase of automatic guns, rifles, and ammunition from firms in England; and whether he will consent to publish such documents for the information of the House and the public.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): It is not possible to say whether all the documents and papers referred to were found, but considerable information was gained from the records in the Government offices. The orders for war material were to a large extent executed through agents, and therefore the records did not show from what firms the consignments had been obtained in the first instance. I do not therefore consider it would be expedient to publish information obtained from such meagre sources.

Mr. DILLON: Will the Government undertake to inquire into this matter and let the British public know whence these arms and guns came?

Lord STANLEY: I cannot add to my answer, which I have endeavoured to make as full as possible.

Mr. DILLON: I shall put a further question.

MILITARY COURTS OF INQUIRY.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether evidence taken on oath before a court of inquiry will be valid documentary evidence that can be produced at a court-martial without the witness being present.

Mr. BRODRICK: No, Sir. The witness will have to give his evidence over again under oath, as is the practice in ordinary civil courts.

Colonel WELBY: But if the witnesses cannot be produced, will the documentary evidence be accepted?

*Mr. BRODRICK: The procedure will be the same as in civil courts.

COLONIAL EXPENDITURE ON THE WAR.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what is the total amount that the colonies of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony, and Natal have respectively expended on the contingents which have been engaged in military operations in South Africa; what is the number of men that have been supplied by each colony; and what is the total cost to the Imperial Treasury in connection with these contingents respectively.

MR. BRODRICK: I have no knowledge of the amounts expended by the colonies on their contingents, and it would require much calculation to give any estimate of the amount expended by the Imperial Treasury on these services. The numbers of the contingents were presented to the House as a Parliamentary Paper on the 18th March.

AUSTRALIAN TROOPERS—ALLEGED DISTURBANCES IN CAPE TOWN.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that on the 28th March last a number of Australian troopers, who had been recently prisoners in the hands of the Boers, and were returning to Australia, attacked the offices of the South African newspaper and several private residences in Cape Town, using sticks and revolvers; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to hold any inquiry into this matter, and to provide compensation for the aggrieved individuals.

MR. BRODRICK: Nothing is known of this.

CANADIAN CONTINGENT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTABULARY—RAID ON OTTAWA HOTEL.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information that the Canadian contingent enlisted for the South African Constabulary during their stay at Ottawa, on the eve of their departure for South Africa, made on the 26th March last a raid on the bar of the Cecil Hotel, Ottawa; whether he is aware that the proprietor of the Cecil Hotel and the members of his family were seized and thrown into the street, and the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Steele, the Commanding Officer of the South African Constabulary, wholly disregarded, and whether the men, or any of them who took part in this riot, have been punished.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have seen a newspaper report from which it appears that there was some disturbance at the Hotel Cecil, Ottawa, and that the member of the South African Constabulary who created the disturbance has been dismissed from the ranks. I have no official information on the subject.

RETURN OF TROOPS—IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, before Lord Roberts left Johannesburg, the hon. Member for the Macclesfield Division, of the Imperial Yeomanry, was sent to Lord Roberts on behalf of the officers and men to induce Lord Roberts to fix a date for the return of the corps, but failed to obtain an interview with the Commander-in-Chief; and that on being referred to Lord Kitchener, he asked why the Imperial Yeomanry had been detained in South Africa, while the Household Corps and the 10th Hussars were allowed to return home, and asked, further, for a definition of the legal position of the Imperial Yeomanry, and that a day for their return should be named, but was informed by Lord Kitchener that the Imperial Yeomanry should remain as long as their services were required; and whether, having regard to the discontent which is alleged to prevail among the Imperial Yeomanry. he will now define the legal position of this corps and the terms under which it consented to go on active service, and will name a definite day for their return.

MR. BRODRICK: Nothing is known of the interviews alluded to in the first paragraph. I am well aware of the natural desire of many members of the Imperial Yeomanry to return home, but they are willing loyally to abide by their terms of enlistment. Every consideration will be given to them which is possible, but as to the date of their return I have nothing to add to my reply of the 22nd instant.†

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will the hon. Gentleman inquire whether this interview took place as stated in the public press some weeks ago?

*MR. BRODRICK: I have said we have no official knowledge.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: No official knowledge, or no knowledge at all?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I press for an answer.

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† See page 898.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has no right to cross-examine a Minister.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF EX-PRIVATE LEE AT NETLEY HOSPITAL.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that on the night of the 31st March last Private Michael Lee, late of the Imperial Yeomanry, who is at present confined to bed in Netley Hospital, suffering from fits, the result of injuries received in South Africa, was beaten by the night student in charge of his ward while suffering from a fit; and that this young student had given orders not to be disturbed whether any of those in his care were ill or not, and on being called by the nurse to see Lee, who was ill, said that when he had done with him the patient would have few fits, and thereupon proceeded to beat him in such a manner that his face was almost unrecognisable for days after; can he state whether any inquiry was held into this case; and what was the name of and the punishment awarded to this student.

*MR. BRODRICK: A court of inquiry was ordered to sit yesterday and report on the matter.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: When will its report be received?

*MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I will repeat the question this day week.

SOLDIERS' PAY—ALLOTMENTS TO WIVES.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the failure of the military authorities in South Africa to report home the allotment of pay to their wives in this country by Private W. J. Maukee, No. 25,330, enlisted 21st December, 1900, for the M. S. Hospital, Woodstock; Private John Stapleton, No. 29,204, Salisbury G. M. Company, Johannesburg; Private Albert Ivey, No. 25,347, Cape Medical Staff Corps, Middelburg, with a number of other cases; and whether any action has been taken to remedy the matter.

LORD STANLEY: The only case of which I am aware is that to which the hon. Member specially drew my attention. A telegram has been sent to the general officer commanding the lines of communication to expedite the remittances.

MR. CAINE: Has no reply been received?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

MR. CAINE: Is the noble Lord aware that he gave me an exactly similar answer three weeks ago?

LORD STANLEY: Yes, and I am sorry to say the same state of affairs exist now as then. We have got no reply to our telegram.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Did you pay for a reply?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that Trooper J. Kerr, who enlisted in the Sharpshooters 28th January, attached to the 23rd Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, sailed for South Africa, 28th March, as Acting Provost Sergeant, leaving 14s. per week out of his pay of 5s. per diem for his wife, residing at 2, Temperley Road, Balham; that up to date Mrs. Kerr has received nothing, and is unable to obtain any reply to her repeated applications, although from the date of her husband's enlistment she has received the monthly Government allowance of 1s. 1d. per day payable monthly for herself and child; and can he say why Mrs. Kerr has not received any reply to her application for back pay, and to whom she, and others in similar position, ought to apply for redress.

LORD STANLEY: The trooper in question appears to have gone abroad without making a formal allotment to his wife. Evidence of his intention has now been obtained and the payments sanctioned. Any similar applications should be addressed to the Station Paymaster at Hounslow.

DECEASED SOLDIERS' EFFECTS.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that delay takes place in distributing the effects of soldiers dying in South Africa, and in the payment to their next of kin of the war grant of £5 due to their next of kin in case of death on active service, from which no deduction can be made on any account; whether the delay is due to the inexperience of the staff of clerks employed on these accounts; and whether a settlement could be accelerated by the adjustment being made by the quartermaster and colour sergeants at the regimental depots.

Lord STANLEY: The delay in distributing the estates of soldiers dying in South Africa arises entirely from the exigencies of active service in a country 6,000 miles away, where regimental office work is only carried on under the greatest difficulty. To transfer the work from the large War Office staff, which has now got it thoroughly up to date, to the depôt staff, which is absolutely inexperienced in the work, would have the effect of indefinitely delaying the distribution. I may add that the war gratuity is as much a portion of the estate as any other asset, and is subject to the same statutory obligations, but it has recently been decided to issue it without waiting for the report of the estate provided the legal claim of the applicant is satisfactorily proved.

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, seeing that there are several Volunteer corps which must be re-clothed before their annual camp this year, and that it is therefore imperative that orders for their clothing should be placed in the hands of contractors without delay, and also that a new pattern uniform is still under consideration, can these corps now order their clothing without waiting indefinitely for the sealed pattern, or are they to invest in uniforms which will be obsolete in a few months, as one of these two courses must evidently be adopted unless the new pattern is now sealed.

Mr. BRODRICK: Volunteer commanding officers wishing for authority to change the uniform of their corps or adopt a working dress have but to comply with the Volunteer regulations and make application for permission to do so, forwarding at the same time the pattern of articles proposed. The sealed patterns for the Regulars do not govern the uniform of Volunteer corps.

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS AND JURY SERVICE.

Lieut.-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can see his way to recommend that officers of Volunteers shall be exempted from service on juries.

Lord STANLEY: This question has been thoroughly considered on several occasions, and it is not found possible to grant the exemption.

VOLUNTEER ESTABLISHMENT STATISTICS.

Lieutenant-Colonel PRYCE-JONES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can explain why the information given regarding the detail of the establishments of Volunteer Corps in Army Estimates for prevous years, as well as for the year ending 31st March, 1901, namely, Appendix 10 (Vote 5), pages 191 to 201, has not been given in Army Estimates for the current year, ending 31st March, 1902; and whether it is intended to give such information, and, if so, when.

Lord STANLEY: The time given for the preparation of the Estimates this year was so short that it was not possible to compile this Appendix. The details will be published later.

5th BATTALION ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the 5th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who have been in England for more than eleven months, and are now stationed at Dover, are anxious to be disembodied, and whether the date for the disembodiment of this Militia Regiment can now be fixed; and whether, in the interval which may elapse before its disembodiment, the regiment can be removed from England to Ballyshannon, Enniskillen, or Londonderry.

Lord STANLEY: No, Sir. I am not aware that this battalion wishes to be disembodied, nor can I fix at present any date for such disembodiment. It is not proposed to move the battalion from its present station.

FORT BROCKHURST—CASE OF PRIVATE BOWLES.

Mr. HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the medical officer inspecting invalids at Fort Brockhurst recommended No. 4,740, Private C. Bowles, 7th Rifle Brigade, on 7th November, 1900, for an ordinary furlough without a medical examination, thereby causing him to be disembodied as a militia reservist under Army Order 232 (5), and preventing him from obtaining a pension for his service in South Africa, and that but for other assistance he would have been left a hopeless cripple, with an invalid wife and two children dependent upon him, with no future but the workhouse; whether he will give the report by the medical officer to the officer who granted the furlough of Private Bowles; and whether he will state what measures he has taken to prevent such procedure by medical officers inspecting invalids from South Africa.

Lord STANLEY: The facts are not as stated in the question. This man was invalided home for rheumatism, and on arrival at Southampton was examined by a medical officer and passed fit for duty. The man himself acknowledged that he stated to this officer that he was quite well. He was accordingly allowed to go on furlough. Since that time he had a relapse, but failed to report himself, as he should have done, to the military authorities. The Secretary of Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, to whom he applied for help, reported the case to the authorities. A medical officer was at once sent to treat him; his disembodiment was cancelled, and he was considered as on sick furlough, pending the decision of the Chelsea Commissioners on his case. The only person to blame in this matter is Private Bowles. I am unaware of any cases similar to that now referred to by the hon. Member.

CASE OF PRIVATE THOMAS RYAN.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War is he aware that Private Thomas Ryan, a soldier who served throughout the whole South African campaign, was for the offence of drunkenness on the 28th January last sentenced by a district court-martial to three years penal servitude; that on the night of his alleged offence Ryan was wet to the skin, and had been exposed for several days to constant and severe wettings; whether any previous conviction had been reported against him; where he is now imprisoned; and will he recommend the Commander-in-Chief to reconsider the sentence with a view to some remission.

Lord STANLEY: Private Thomas Ryan was found, when he should have been on sentry, hopelessly intoxicated. This offence on active service is, as the hon. Member will admit, one of extreme gravity. His offence, however, will, like those of all other soldiers committed on active service, be duly considered, and the award, if necessary, revised by the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: Was not this unfortunate soldier suffering from hunger and the effects of the campaign generally?

Lord STANLEY: My information is that he was suffering from drink.

MARK IV. BULLETS.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, in view of the fact that the 50,000,000 defective Mark IV. bullets were made to specification, will he state the contract price paid to the contractors.

Lord STANLEY: I have nothing to add to the reply I gave to the hon. Member's question on the 18th instant.*

Mr. WEIR: But this question has never been asked before.

Lord STANLEY: I think the hon. Member will find it has been.

Mr. WEIR: I shall take the earliest opportunity of calling attention to the manner in which dust is being thrown into the eyes of the public.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—TITLE.

Colonel WELBY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will insert in his resolution on Army Organisation the title "Imperial" before "Yeomanry," to afford opportunity of discussing the appropriateness of that title for a force enlisted for the local defence of the United Kingdom, and not for Imperial, purposes.

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* See page 602.

MR. BRODRICK: The resolution is intended to provide opportunity for discussion of the numbers, cost, and organisation of the forces proposed, and I hardly think it would be desirable to divert attention from these important questions by amending the resolution so as to make occasion for a debate on the title proposed for the Yeomanry.

COLONEL WELBY: Then are we to understand that the title of "Yeomanry" is not important?

*MR. BRODRICK: I did not say that. I only suggested that there were other matters of greater importance.

ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction existing in the Royal Irish Regiment, stationed at Aldershot, embodied since 14th May 1900, at not being yet disbanded or allowed to return to their homes on unlimited working furlough as other Militia regiments were allowed after six months service; and whether he can say when this regiment will be disbanded or allowed unlimited working furlough.

LORD STANLEY: I am not aware of any such dissatisfaction. No date can be given at present for the disembodiment of this regiment. The question of extended furlough rests entirely with the commanding officer, to whom general instructions have been issued, and who alone can decide, with a view to the efficiency of his regiment, how many men he can spare at a particular time.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is the noble Lord aware that this regiment refused to volunteer for service in South Africa, because they did not desire to fight against the Boers, and the men are under the impression that they are being punished for that refusal?

LORD STANLEY: I am not.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I am, for a large number of them are my constituents.

IRISH GUARDS—FORAGE CAP.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been directed to the unpopularity of the undress forage cap supplied to the Irish Guards, and if he will order that this regiment be supplied with a cap similar to the Coldstream or Grenadier Guards, having round it a distinctive green band; and if it is the intention of the Government to move the Irish Guards to Dublin.

LORD STANLEY: No complaints have been received as regards the new pattern of Guards' cap, which will not be confined to the Irish Guards, but which it is proposed to issue to the Brigade. There is no immediate intention of moving the Irish Guards to Dublin, but their connection with Ireland will naturally weigh in deciding their station.

MILITIA EMBODIMENTS AND DISEMBODIMENTS.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if in future he can arrange to give Militia battalions more notice of embodiment or disembodiment than they have had hitherto.

LORD STANLEY: Every consideration is already given to this matter, but I must inform the hon. Member that many commanding officers complained that too long notice was given of embodiment. As regards disembodiment, it would appear inexpedient to retain the troops in order to give a longer notice.

MILITIA OFFICERS' GRATUITY.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if Militia officers who have served for over a year on army pay are entitled to the £100 gratuity even if their battalions are still embodied.

LORD STANLEY: The matter is under consideration.

ROYAL GARRISON REGIMENTS—SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what allowances are to be given to married men in the Royal Garrison regiments for their wives and children, and how many wives and children there are to be provided for belonging to the 1st battalion of Royal Garrison Regiment formed.

Lord STANLEY: The women will either be with their husbands, if the accommodation be sufficient, or will be granted the usual separation allowances. I do not know as yet for how many provision must be made.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER: Can the noble Lord give a rough answer to the last part of my question?

Lord STANLEY: I am afraid I cannot.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE MALTESE COURTS.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that his direction, dated 13th March, 1899, to the Governor of Malta to proclaim the substitution of the English for the Italian language in Malta in all legal proceedings, has created discontent among the population, and has been the subject of protest by the elected members of the Council of Government of Malta to the Governor against this substitution of the English for the Italian language; what reply did he give on his visit to Malta last November to the deputation of the representatives of the Maltese people who waited on him for the purpose of urging on Her late Majesty's Government the inadvisability of the enforcement of the English language on the inhabitants of Malta; and whether, having regard to the opposition offered to the intended substitution of English for Italian in Malta in the proceedings of the courts of justice, which began twenty years ago, and to the fact that the Italian language has been the educational language of the Maltese for the last nine centuries, and that the use of the language by its user in the Proclamations of the Governors and the command of William IV. when granting a commission for the codification of the Maltese laws that the Italian laguage should be the authorised text of the code, His Majesty's Government will refrain from the enforcement in Malta of the English in substitution for the Italian language.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member's question does not correctly state the facts, which I have already explained in my answer to previous questions on the 7th and 10th December last.† I have no reason to believe that any discontent exists among the population of Malta, and by the last return I find that the parents of the children in the elementary schools of Malta have to the extent of 98 or 99 per cent. elected for English in preference to Italian. As I have already stated, the subject to which the hon. Member refers was not mentioned at my interview with the elected members in Malta. I see no reason to modify the position which His Majesty's Government have adopted.

Mr. POWER (Waterford, E.): When will the correspondence be laid on the Table?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I hope very shortly; it is being prepared.

MAURITIUS JUDICIAL VACANCY.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in filling up the vacancy on the judicial bench of Mauritius caused by the death of Mr. Justice Smith, regard will be paid to the necessity of appointing a judge who has a competent knowledge of the French language, in view of the fact that French is the recognised language of that colony.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: A knowledge of French is always regarded as an important qualification for appointment to the bench of the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

INDIA—ETAH MURDERS—COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES.

Mr. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if his attention has been called to a sentence of death which has recently been passed upon seventeen men by the justices of the North West Provinces for the murder of two persons living in the Etah district, against which appeal was taken to the judges of the High Court, with the result that the sentence of death has been confirmed in the case of sixteen of the convicted men, one sentence being commuted to penal servitude for life; if so, has the Viceroy revised the sentences in any way with a view to abating the number of persons to be executed.

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† See *Debates*, Vol. lxxxviii., pages 203 and 345.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I learn from the Government of India that in the case referred to sixteen persons were originally condemned to death by the sessions court, and the sentence was confirmed in the case of all sixteen by the High Court of the North-West Provinces. The sentence of death has, however, been commuted by the lieutenant governor to one of transportation for life in the case of twelve out of the sixteen. No appeal has been preferred to the Viceroy in the case.

COOPER'S HILL COLLEGE.

MR. WALTER PALMER (Salisbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will inform the House whether the new members of the Board of Visitors of Cooper's Hill Engineering College have yet been appointed by the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and whether the committee of the Board of Visitors, including the three new visitors, will forthwith inquire into and report upon the working, discipline, and constitution of the college, and the relations of the visitors, president, and teaching staff; and whether he can assure the House that the report of their inquiry will be laid before the House, and an opportunity given for discussion during the present session.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London have been requested to nominate representatives to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Indian Engineering College, and as soon as these nominations are made I shall ask the Board of Visitors to appoint a committee for the purpose mentioned in the question. I should have no objection to publishing their report, but I cannot now undertake that a day shall be set apart for its discussion.

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any representations have been made by His Majesty's Government to Russia in reference to the occupation of Manchuria, in view of China's refusal to sign the agreement with Russia.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): No such representations have been made.

BRITISH OCCUPATION OF EGYPT.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if His Majesty's Government can name a date upon which evacuation of Egypt by the British Forces will be carried out.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: No, Sir.

TREATMENT OF IMPRISONED DERVISH LEADERS.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state whether the Dervish leaders Mahmoud and Osman Digna are still detained as prisoners, and, if so, where they are, and what treatment is accorded to them.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Mahmoud and Osman Digna, together with other Dervish leaders and their families, are interned as prisoners of war at Rosetta. They do not undergo hard labour, and are considerately treated. The prisoners are visited monthly by a British officer. Good care is taken of the women and children, and educational instruction is given to the latter.

MR. DILLON: May I ask why these men are still being detained, a year and a half after the close of the war?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. DILLON: Is the silence rule in operation again?

WAIMA INCIDENT.

MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present condition of the negotiations with the French Government respecting the Waima affair; and whether he can now state when the arbitration proceedings are likely to be commenced.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The Arbitration Convention dealing with the Waima and Sergent Malamine cases has been signed, and will be submitted by the French Government for legislative sanction when the French Chambers reassemble about the middle of next month. The Convention provides that the ratifications shall be exchanged as soon as possible.

EXPORT COAL DUTY—AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRADE.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the quantity of coal exported in 1900 from the United States of America and Canada; and whether the United States Government imposes any duty on coal exported to British possessions.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The quantity of coal exported in 1900 from the United States of America was 5,422,493 tons. There is no export duty on United States coal exported to British possessions.

FALLING COAL PRICES AND FREIGHTS.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether in his inquiries into the rates of outward freights on coal, and the effect of higher freights and coal prices in stimulating trade, he noted the fall that had occurred in freights from Cardiff, and in the f.o.b. prices of coal last month as compared with similar freights and prices a year ago; if, before framing his Budget proposals, his attention had been drawn to the reduction of half a million tons in the export of coal in March as compared with the corresponding month last year, and that this reduction of 12 per cent. in volume had been accompanied by a reduction of 20 per cent. in value; and whether commercial experts in his Department attribute this decrease in trade to the lower prices charged foreign buyers of coal, or attribute the lower prices to a lessened demand for coal from abroad.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): My attention has been drawn to the fall in prices and freights in 1901 as compared with 1900. It may be presumed that the decrease in the export of coal, which I believe amounted to 9 per cent. in the first three months of the year, is attributable to a lessened demand for it. It is no matter of surprise that a period of extraordinary activity and inflated prices, like 1900, should be followed by a quiet year, and I framed my estimate of the yield of duty accordingly.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: The figures for March are correct, are they not?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I do not say that.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: You do not say that they are incorrect.

AMERICAN COAL EXPORTS.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the quantities of coal exported from the United States of America to European countries, and separately to South America, in the years 1890, 1899, and 1900 respectively, and will he give the percentages of the increases or decreases shown.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The quantities of coal (domestic produce) exported from the United States to European countries in the years named were 138,080 tons in 1890, 35,322 tons in 1899, and 635,237 tons in 1900. The corresponding quantities exported to South America were 49,355 tons, 88,733 tons, and 214,126 tons respectively. Taking the amounts exported in 1890 to Europe as 100, the amount for 1899 was 26, and for 1900, 460. The corresponding figures for export to South America are 100, 180, and 434. The figures for 1890 refer to the year ending 30th June, those for 1899 and 1900 to the calendar years.

INCIDENCE OF NEW COAL DUTY.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, under the operation of the new coal duty, British coal supplied to a British vessel for ship's use by a British subject in the British possession of Malta will be liable to the duty, and similar coal supplied for a similar purpose, to a foreign vessel, by a foreign subject, at Cardiff or Newport, will be free of duty.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The answer is. Yes. We do not differentiate between British and foreign vessels, and Cardiff would gain by foreign vessels coaling there.

COAL TRADE WITH THE WEST INDIES.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can give the quantities of coal exported last year from this country and the United States of America, respectively, to the British and Foreign West Indies.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The quantity of coal exported from the United Kingdom in 1900 to the British West Indies (including Bermuda) was 62,884 tons, and the quantity exported to the Foreign West Indies was 26,367 tons. The quantity exported from the United States to the West Indies and Bermuda was 760,879 tons. Separate figures for the United States exports to the British and Foreign West Indies are not available.

BUNKER COAL.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state approximately what proportion of coal exported abroad from this country, and upon which the duty will be charged, is consumed by British vessels and British subjects; and whether it is proposed to place any limitation on the quantity of coal that may be supplied at one time to a foreign vessel for bunkers free of duty.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I cannot give any estimate such as is asked for in the first paragraph of the question. The regulations concerning the shipment of bunker coal on vessels proceeding abroad, whether British or foreign owned, provide that the quantity allowed be calculated on the daily consumption and length of voyage in each case.

RETURNS OF BUNKER COAL.

*SIR JOSEPH PEASE (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in reference to Return No. 119, 2nd April, 1901, whether in Table C, folio 21, the Return of coal shipped for ships' use on foreign voyages, during the years 1899 and 1900, amounted to 12,226,801 tons in 1899, and 11,752,316 tons in 1900, are coals in addition to the coals named in Return B, folio 20, for those years, namely, 41,180,300 tons in 1899, and 44,089,197 tons in 1900, or are coals already included in those Returns.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Coal shipped for ships' use on foreign voyages is not included in the Return of coal exported.

SOUTH WALES PATENT FUEL AND COKE INDUSTRIES.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state approximately how many workmen are employed at Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, and elsewhere in this country in the manufacture of coal into patent fuel and coke which is afterwards exported abroad, and upon which the new coal duty will be imposed.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is not possible to give the information desired.

COAL CONSUMPTION IN PIG IRON PRODUCTION.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has formed any estimate of the quantity of coal consumed in the production of pig iron afterwards exported abroad and used as the raw material in the manufacture of articles imported into the United Kingdom and sold in competition with articles made in Sheffield and other centres of British industry; and whether he has considered the advisability of imposing a tax on coal so used and virtually exported.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The quantity of pig iron of British make exported in 1900 was 1,427,525 tons. I have no knowledge as to the quantity of coal consumed in its production, or as to the proportion of such iron re-imported into this country in a manufactured form. I do not propose to impose a tax on coal so used.

DURATION OF COAL SUPPLY

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has in his Department any information as to the duration of our supplies of coal suitable for export purposes; and if so, will he lay it upon the Table of the House.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The duration of our supplies of coal suitable for export purposes depends on the duration of our coal supply—a matter of purely hypothetical opinion. I have no information on the subject, beyond what is open to the hon. Member.

CLOSING OF SOUTH WALES COLLIERIES.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a number of the smaller collieries in South Wales have been closed owing to the unprofitable nature of the coal trade at present; and if he can state the number of workmen that have been thrown out of employment in consequence, and the further number that may be thrown out when notices now pending expire.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am informed by the Inspector of Mines for the South Wales District that the number of collieries which have been closed or are about to be closed is nine. The total number of persons employed at the collieries last year was 781.

DEARNESS AND SCARCITY OF COAL.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any Parliamentary or departmental inquiry has taken place into the coal question since the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed in 1873 to inquire into the then dearness and scarcity of coal; and whether, before formulating his Budget proposals, he had read the condemnation by the Select Committee of 1873 of the idea of an export duty on coal.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: In answer to paragraph one, I have to reply no, so far as I am aware. In reply to paragraph two I have to say I was acquainted with the opinion expressed by the Select Committee, and noticed some of their arguments. But that opinion referred to proposals for imposing such a duty as would practically prevent the export of coal.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: But is the right hon. Gentleman aware there were special objections in the case of coal which did not apply to other articles?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That was the view of the Committee.

ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF GOLD AT LEITH

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that a discovery of gold-bearing strata has been made at Leith, and that the Crown authorities have intimated their claim to the gold; and will he send Sir David Barbour to report thereon, and delay the imposition of the coal export duty of 1s. per ton until he has found time to report thereon.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I am afraid I cannot see the connection between the discovery of gold at Leith, the coal duty, and Sir David Barbour.

MR. JOHN WILSON: The point is in the suggestion that you need not ruin the export coal trade.

THE NEW SUGAR DUTY

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state what steps are being taken to secure to the exporters of confectionery the drawback on goods despatched since the passing of the Budget resolution on sugar.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The Finance Act will include provision of a drawback of the duty paid by the exporter on the sugar used in his exports. Such, however, will not come into effect for some time, because the stock of duty-free sugar must be exhausted first. I expect shortly to receive a deputation of the trade on the subject.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): What is to happen, meanwhile, to export confectioners who have not laid in a supply of duty-free sugar?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: There has been a very considerable amount of duty-free sugar imported in anticipation of the Budget, much more than the usual supply.

IMPORTED HONEY AND THE SUGAR DUTY.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is proposed to charge the sugar duty upon imported honey which consists to the extent of four-fifths of its weight of invert and cane sugar; if so, how he proposes to levy an equivalent duty upon honey produced in this country.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: No duty is charged on importations of pure honey, but if mixed with sugar it will be liable to the proportionate sugar duty.

PRESERVED FRUITS AND THE DUTY.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the Customs are assessing and charging the full sugar duty upon the gross bulk weight of fruits preserved in syrup on the assumption that the whole weight of the article is due to nothing but sugar, whereas the percentage present rarely exceeds ten per cent.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Directions have already been issued to confine the assessment of duty to the quantity of sugar used in manufacturing the articles. Pending analysis the importer can obtain delivery of the goods on deposit of an amount sufficient to cover the probable duty.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in assessing the duty on articles preserved with sugar, any steps are being taken by the Customs to distinguish between the added sugar and that natural to the article, and by what tests will such differentiation be made.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The Customs are taking steps to distinguish between natural and added sugar, and to confine the duty-charge to the latter. The distinction is arrived at by chemical analysis.

CONDENSED MILK AND THE DUTY.

MR. KEARLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in assessing the duty on condensed milk, any allowance is being made for the milk sugar naturally present in milk; if so, what is the amount; whether he is aware that there are brands of condensed milk imported in which there is no added sugar; and whether the policy at present in practiced by the Customs of levying the full sugar duty on the bulk weight of condensed milk irrespective of the sugar therein contained will be applied to condensed milk of this description.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Allowance will be made for the natural milk sugar, the amount of which in any particular case will depend on the character of the milk. If no sugar be added, the condensed milk will be free of duty.

DRAWBACK ON BRITISH REFINED SUGAR.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is prepared to make a provision for a drawback to be given upon British refined sugar exported from England to places abroad, in view of the fact that the export trade will be injuriously affected if such a drawback is not allowed.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Yes, Sir.

NEW ISSUE OF CONSOLS.

*MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to secure facilities from the Bank of England so that it may consent to advance money upon the security of the part paid scrip of the new issue of Consols.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: This is not a matter in my control, but I am informed by the Bank of England that they will advance money upon the security of the partly paid scrip of the new issue of consols on their usual terms.

OXFORD CEMETERIES—MARTIN'S ACT.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether cemeteries, as, for example, the three new cemeteries at Oxford, which were provided under Martin's Act, and which have been used for several years without having been consecrated, in whole or part, are outside the purview of the Burial Act, 1900, with reference to consecration.

*MR. RITCHIE: The answer is in the negative.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: Then has the right hon. Gentleman changed his opinion in the last few days, for he told me that all cases approved prior to the passing of the Act did not come under the new Act.

*MR. RITCHIE: That is a totally different question.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: When cemeteries were approved under the old Burial Act, will they remain under that Act and not be affected by the new Act? Will cemeteries under Martin's Act come under the new Act with regard to consecration only?

*MR. RITCHIE: The question is simply whether, where they were established under Martin's Act, they are outside the purview of the Act of 1900 as regards consecration. I am advised that under the new Act it is quite sufficient that a desire from the locality should be expressed for the consecration of some part of a cemetery of this kind, and the Home Office will take steps to see whether an Order to give effect to the desire should be made.

CHILD HAWKERS—LICENCES.

MR. CRAWFORD SMITH (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government will extend to the rest of England the system of licensing children selling in our streets, provided for by the Liverpool Corporation Act, 1898, and experimentally put into force with such satisfactory results in Liverpool in 1899.

MR. RITCHIE: The subject of street trading by children comes within the inquiry now being conducted by a Joint Committee of the Home Office, the Board of Education, and the Board of Trade. I must wait for the Report of the Committee before I can be in a a position to answer my hon. friend.

FISHING BOATS—DAY SIGNALS.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware of the fact that while a steam-line fishing boat displays certain lights at night to distinguish it from a steam trawler, during the day-time there is nothing to show this distinction, and that, in consequence, trawlers frequently fail to recognise that these boats are steam-liners till they have approached so near as to damage the lines; and whether he will make it a rule for a steam-liner during the day-time to display a black ball on the foremast, or some other distinctive sign.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir; I am aware that under the present regulations there is no provision for a day signal for fishing-boats, but the revised rules prepared by the Rule of the Road Committee, which are now under the consideration of foreign Governments, provide for such a signal. In the event of the adoption of this signal, it will be possible, under the rule providing for it, to meet the point to which the hon. Member refers, if the trade desire it; and the matter shall be borne in mind.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE BOILER EXPLOSION.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can explain why no order for the payment of costs or expenses by the owner was made in the case of a boiler explosion at Poulton-le-Fylde on 27th

September last, upon which a preliminary inquiry was held (No. 1260), and the Report of which stated that the owner appeared to have been reckless in his management of the boiler, and that, notwithstanding he had been told by two firms of boiler-makers that it was worn out and unrepairable, he continued to work it for two years and a half under conditions which the Board of Trade engineer pronounced as little short of criminal.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No order for the payment of costs or expenses was made in the case to which my hon. friend refers, because it was not thought necessary to order a formal investigation by the only court that could make such an order. The owner was no doubt reckless, but he was in a very small way of business, and only he and his son attended to the boiler. Fortunately, neither was injured, and, as there was no obscurity as to the cause of the explosion, and it would probably have been difficult to recover any considerable pecuniary penalty, the preliminary inquiry that has been held, and the publication of the facts, meet, I think, the requirements of the case.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that costs were imposed by the preliminary inquiry?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No; I understand that costs are only imposed by a court of formal inquiry.

METROPOLITAN POOR LAW SCHOOLS.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the department has sanctioned the erection of additional buildings at the schools for poor law children at Hanwell, Ashford, Forest Gate, Brentwood, Southall, and other metropolitan poor law schools; and, if so, what sums have been expended on the five schools mentioned respectively; and what is the total sum expended on additional buildings to the existing metropolitan pauper schools (excluding Hornchurch and Banstead) since April, 1896.

MR. WALTER LONG: Since April, 1896, the following expenditure has been sanctioned in connection with additions to the schools mentioned in the first paragraph of the question:—Brentwood, £5,417; Forest Gate, £984; Southall, £12,180; Hanwell, £5,489. No expenditure has been sanctioned in respect of additions to the Ashford schools since the date referred to. The total expenditure sanctioned since April, 1896, in respect of additions to the metropolitan poor law schools is about £48,000; but no expenditure has been sanctioned for the purpose of increasing the number of children to be accommodated in any of the large schools.

PAUPER CHILDREN'S VILLAGES.

MR. FLOWER: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has sanctioned the erection of pauper children's villages at Slifford by the Stepney Board of Guardians, at Sidcup by the Greenwich Board, at Bostal Heath by the Woolwich Board, as Shenfield by the Poplar Board, at Shirley by the St. Olave's Board, at Pornteland by the Newcastle Board, at Kenyon Junction by the Salford Board, at Shotley Bridge by the Gateshead Board, at Wavertree by the Liverpool Select Vestry; and, if so, what expenditure the Board has sanctioned on these villages respectively.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Local Government Board have agreed to the erection of cottage homes at the nine places mentioned in the question. The total amount of the expenditure sanctioned for this purpose is £449,391. I will furnish my hon. friend with a statement showing the sum sanctioned in respect of each case.

POOR LAW CHILDREN IN METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSES AND INFIRMARIES.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state how many poor law children were in the infirmaries and workhouses of the Metropolis at the date when the last Returns were made up.

MR. WALTER LONG: According to the latest Returns the numbers are as follows:—infirmaries, 1,693; workhouses, 1,448. Of these, however, 532 and 508 respectively are infants under two years of age.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the regulations as to tuberculosis issued by the Local Government Board in March, 1899; and whether he will make it obligatory that all medical officers of health, part of whose salary is paid by money furnished by Parliament, shall act in accordance with those regulations as to meat from animals which have suffered from localised tuberculosis.

MR. WALTER LONG: As I stated in my reply to a previous question by the hon. Member, the Local Government Board have not prescribed regulations on the subject referred to. I pointed out then that the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis laid down certain principles which, in their opinion, should be observed in the inspection of tuberculous carcases of cattle, and that the Board in March, 1899, drew the attention of sanitary authorities to the matter, and stated that the authorities should direct those of their officers who were employed as meat inspectors to act in accordance with the principles laid down by the Commission. It does not appear to me that I can take further action on this point at the present time.

MR. FIELD: Will the right hon. Gentleman take further steps so as to secure that the recommendations of the Commission are acted upon?

MR. WALTER LONG: I cannot take any further action at present.

MR. FIELD: Then are the recommendations to remain a dead letter?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the total amount of the contributions paid by the officers under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, for the year ended Michaelmas, 1897.

MR. WALTER LONG: The amount of the contributions paid by officers under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, during the year ended at Lady Day, 1898, was £47,465. I cannot give the particulars in respect of the year ended at Michaelmas, 1897.

GLANDERS OUTBREAK AT GLASGOW.

MR. WILLIAM M'KILLOP (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether Major Tennant, Under Secretary to the Department, who received the deputation from Glasgow recently, on the question of the methods of dealing with outbreaks of glanders, is a qualified veterinary surgeon.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The question of glanders was by no means the main subject which the deputation was intended to deal with, and that question was, in fact, only introduced incidentally, after the principal subjects had been discussed. Even then most of the points raised were not such as to require the presence of a veterinary expert. Our principal veterinary officer was, however, consulted by the deputation on any point where expert knowledge was required.

POST OFFICE PENSION CALCULATIONS.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state the manner in which the total service and emoluments of a postal official seeking retirement are computed by the Treasury; is any allowance made in respect of the number of hours overtime performed and for the value of the same; and, if not, will he state the reason.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAM-

BERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The pension is calculated on all service which fulfils the conditions of the Superannuation Acts, and is based on the permanent salary and emoluments of the office at the date of retirement, or, in some cases, on an average of the preceding three years. Overtime, except in very rare instances, does not fulfil these conditions, and is therefore not counted in the calculation of pension.

HOLYHEAD AND KINGSTOWN PACKET POSTAL STAFF.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that for eleven years no sorting clerk has been promoted from the Holyhead and Kingstown packet; that some of the senior men have refused promotion as affecting their superannuation allowance; that the remainder of the packet staff have during that period been passed over; and that in answer to a paper submitted in 1899, the Controller wrote that the applicants' cases had been considered, and that their supervising officers, who were aware of their capabilities, could not recommend any of them; whether he is aware that in the previous year the senior supervising officer recommended some officers for promotion, notwithstanding which junior men were promoted, one of whom some time previously had been removed from the packet for incompetence; and whether, having regard to the stagnation of promotion from the packet service, he can say what steps he proposes to take in this matter.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is not the fact that for eleven years past no sorting clerk actually employed on the Holyhead and Kingstown Packet duty has been promoted. One sorting clerk was so promoted in 1894. Certain of the senior men so employed have expressed their unwillingness to leave the packet duty, in order that their qualifications for promotion might be properly tested, not because their superannuation allowance would thereby be affected, but because their allowance for packet duty is so lucrative that promotion would not carry with it any immediate benefit. In certain promotions made during the past few years a number of officers employed in the packets were passed over because they were not considered to be the fittest persons to perform the duties of the posts to be filled. It is the case that in 1898 the senior assistant superintendent on the packet service recommended that three of the officers working on that duty should be tested in other duties, to see whether they were fit for promotion. But of these three officers one was unwilling to undergo the test, and the qualifications of the other two were not such as to bring them into comparison with the officers actually promoted. One of the officers promoted in 1899 had been tried on packet duty, but was found unfitted by reason of his age. He was, however, certified to be an exceptionally good officer as regards the general duties of the sorting office, and to be the best qualified for promotion. The claims of men working in the packet service are always considered with those of others, and they have the same chances of promotion.

POST OFFICE—APPEAL REGULATIONS.

MR. HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why a supervisory official at the post office in Gracechurch Street refused to forward a properly worded appeal from a telegraphist to the Controller; and whether the Postmaster General will investigate the circumstances, with a view to granting facilities to the staff to appeal to the higher officials upon questions which may adversely affect them.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The telegraphist in question was cautioned for carelessness, and appealed against the view taken of the case. The appeal was duly put forward and considered by the Controller, who declined to vary the decision. The telegraphist then put in a further appeal, which was returned to him for further reconsideration, as it included matter which was not relevant; but he was told at the time that he might forward it direct, which, however, he did not do. The Postmaster General is satisfied that both the telegraphist in question and the rest of the staff have ample facilities for appealing in any case in which they consider themselves aggrieved.

POSTAL GRIEVANCES—REFUSAL OF FRESH INQUIRY.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the discontent existing among postal and telegraph employees with reference to their conditions of service; whether he is aware that at conferences and public meetings resolutions have been passed asking for the appointment of a Committee of Members of Parliament to inquire into the nature of the alleged grievances; and whether the Postmaster General will consider the advisability of recommending that a Committee composed of Members of this House be appointed to investigate and report.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first two paragraphs of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. It is, however, only five years since the conditions of employment of Post Office servants were exhaustively investigated by a Committee, of which Lord Tweedmouth was chairman. All the recommendations of that Committee were accepted by the Government, and have been carried out at a very heavy cost to the taxpayer, amounting in the present year to upwards of £500,000. No new circumstances have arisen which were not before that Committee; and the Postmaster General is not prepared to recommend another similar inquiry, causing as it would great disturbance of ordinary business, and keeping the staff in a state of unrest which is detrimental to efficiency.

MALLAIG AND STORNOWAY MAIL STEAMER SERVICE.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state the result of the experimental mail steamer service between Mallaig and Stornoway, and will he say when tenders will be invited for the service.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The service has only been in operation since the 1st instant, and there has not been time to form an opinion on its advantages.

Mr. WEIR: How much more time does the hon. Gentleman want?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am not prepared to fix any time.

THE POST OFFICE LONDON TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Mr. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state when the Post Office telephone system in London will be ready to arrange for the reception of subscribers.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is hoped that it will be possible to connect the premises of subscribers with some of the principal Exchanges in about five or six months time if no further delay occurs owing to the difficulty of carrying out structural alterations in buildings in which other Post Office work is being carried on.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the fact that Commissioners of Land Tax are only summoned to meetings of the commissioners by notices published in the official *Gazette*, and seeing that Land Tax Commissioners cannot know the time and place of meeting without putting themselves to the trouble and expense of buying and reading the official *Gazette*, instructions will be given to the clerks to the Commissioners of Land Tax to summon the commissioners by notice sent by post to each commissioner, in accordance with the usual practice adopted by other public bodies.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member is presumably referring to the meetings of Land Tax Commissioners convened from time to time by the Board of Inland Revenue, under Section 4 of the Act, 5 and 6 Vict., Cap. 35, for the purpose of appointing commissioners for the general purposes of income tax. The convenience of the commissioners is always consulted by the Board before appointing the time and place of meeting; and when the notice is published in the *Gazette* a notification of the fact, and a copy of the *Gazette*, are invariably sent to the clerk to the commissioners, with a request that he will take the necessary steps to ensure a sufficient attendance on the occasion. The Board think that the clerk may be safely left to use his own discretion as to what steps are actually necessary to this end.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that, as a matter of fact, no notice is sent to the commissioners?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The number of commissioners is very large, and if notice were sent to each one it would cause great delay. If the hon. Member has any suggestion to communicate to me I shall be happy to receive it.

CUSTOMS ASSISTANTS' GRIEVANCES.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state what steps have been taken to remedy the alleged grievances of the assistants of Customs which were inquired into by the Secretary to the Treasury last year.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I will ask the hon. Member to refer to a reply which I gave on this subject on the 15th ultimo to the hon. Member for South Londonderry.*

SCOTTISH SHERIFFS' SALARIES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he is now in a position to state whether a decision has been arrived at in regard to the question of increasing the salaries of sheriffs in Scotland; and, if not, can he state when a decision may be expected.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Board of Treasury is in communication with the Secretary for Scotland on the subject, and is not yet in a position to announce a decision.

VENTILATION OF PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION LOBBIES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works, in view of the satisfactory result obtained by the adoption of a fan in the division lobbies, will he consider the expediency of adopting a similar method for the better ventilation of the ladies gallery.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I will gladly consider this proposition, though I must point out to the hon. Member that there are many difficulties in the way, and that the same conditions do not apply.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS.

MR. RUTHERFORD (Lancashire, Darwen): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can say what is the minimum number of attendances a child has to make before being employed full time in a factory or workshop, and whether the provisions of the Elementary Education Act, 1900, are retrospective regarding an attendance qualification for full time employment.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The Board of Education are advised that, since the 8th August, 1900, no child can obtain full-time exemption from school on an attendance qualification, unless such child has obtained a certificate that it has made 350 attendances, after reaching the age of five years, in not more than two schools during each year for five years, whether consecutive or not.

MR. RUTHERFORD: Can the right hon. Gentleman answer the second paragraph?

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* See preceding volume, page 83.

Sir J. GORST: I do not know what the hon. Member means by the word "retrospective." I have given the effect of it.

SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will grant the Return relative to the Congested Districts Board (Scotland), notice of which stands on to-day's Paper.†

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire): The whole essential information regarding the schemes of migration undertaken by the Congested Districts Board is given in their third annual Report. In these circumstances the Secretary for Scotland cannot see his way to order the preparation of a detailed Return.

Mr. WEIR: In view of the fact that the information is not stated accurately in the Report, is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his reply will necessitate at least a hundred questions being put on the Paper?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

GLASGOW SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

Mr. THOMAS BAYLEY: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will furnish a Return showing the amount of money spent by the Corporation of Glasgow in vaccination and re-vaccination from 1st January, 1892, to the present time.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Return cannot be given for the exact period mentioned, but if the hon. Member will move for a Return of the expenditure by the Corporation of Glasgow in connection with vaccination and re-vaccination in each year from 1st June, 1891, to 31st May, 1900, the Secretary for Scotland will grant it as an unopposed Return.

EAST KERRY MOVING BOG.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the amount spent in the congested districts in East Kerry for the last three years, and the population and area of these districts; whether he is aware that the moving bog at Gneeveguilla is in the centre of a congested district, and that this bog was the source of a disaster a few years ago by breaking its banks, sweeping away a house and its inmates and a number of live stock, and causing other loss in the locality; whether he has information showing that this disaster was primarily due to the fact that the landlord of the district never made any effort to effect a proper outlet for the surplus water in the bog; and whether, seeing that no effort has been made ever since the disaster to prevent a similar recurrence, the Congested Districts Board will inquire into the matter with the view of doing what may be necessary in the direction indicated.

The CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): It is not possible to state with accuracy the total expenditure of the Board in a congested districts county, since actual expense under a general agricultural scheme cannot well be assessed on a local area. The expenditure on other projects in Kerry amounts to £26,476. The area of the county is 661,040 acres, and its population 86,981. I cannot give the figures for the Parliamentary divisions of the county. I have no information as to the third paragraph; I am, however, making inquiries into the matter.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Over what period of time has the expenditure been spread?

Mr. WYNDHAM: Since the establishment of the Board.

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† The following is the Return referred to:—Congested Districts Board (Scotland),—Return showing the names of the districts and counties in which the Congested Districts Board have endeavoured to secure land for the settlement of the people; the names of the owners of such lands; the cases in which the Board have succeeded; the number of acres applied for and the number secured; the terms and conditions under which the respective lands have been acquired by the Board; the terms and conditions under which they have been apportioned to the people; the acreage and rent of each holding, with the name of the tenant.

BUTTER SUBSTITUTES—DUBLIN PROSECUTION.

Mr. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as President of the Department of Agriculture for Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the case, this week, where a company called the Danish and Irish Creamery Company, of Lower Camden Street, Dublin, were convicted and fined for having sold a 56 lb. box of margarine to a country shopkeeper as butter; and whether that margarine was imported or made in Ireland.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The margarine was manufactured, I am informed, in Ireland.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN ENNIS.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what is the reason of the delay upon the part of the Local Government Board in sanctioning the scheme of the Ennis Urban Council for the erection of labourers' cottages in Ennis.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The plans and specifications submitted to the Board were so irregular and defective that it was found necessary to return them to the district council. The amended plans have not yet been furnished.

EDUCATION OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB IN IRELAND.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will introduce legislation to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1885 regarding the blind, the deaf, and the dumb, respecting the application of the Compulsory Education Act, which has not been carried into effect in Ireland; and whether he will consider the advisability of introducing direct State aid, upon the Continental system, in preference to the voluntary system which is in force in the three kingdoms.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Royal Commission reported in 1889. The question of providing State aid towards the education of these afflicted classes deserves, and will receive, consideration; but I cannot undertake to introduce legislation during this session.

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN COUNTY MONAGHAN.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the Department of Agriculture sent a representative months ago to advise with the County Committee of Monaghan how advantage might be taken of the Agricultural and Technical Acts, and that one of the points agreed upon was the appointment of a lecturer to instruct the people of that county in the treatment of experimental plots devoted to agriculture; and whether he can explain why no such lecturer has been provided for county Monaghan, although the spring is now nearly over.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Each of the rural districts in Monaghan has submitted a scheme to the county council containing proposals in regard to agricultural instruction, and as soon as the county council have had time to co-ordinate these schemes and to submit one scheme for the entire county, the department will authorise the County Committee to appoint a suitable instructor.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND EXAMINATION CERTIFICATES.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that it is a rule of the Royal University of Ireland that students who have passed examinations under the University can only receive one certificate of their having done so: and whether he will give directions that when the original certificate has been lost the secretaries shall issue a duplicate if required for any particular purpose.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I am informed that the Senate is, for obvious reasons, unwilling to issue a second certificate unless satisfied that the original has been destroyed. But, when the circum stances warrant it, a letter is issued embodying the substance of the certificate.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—CONSTABLE BLACK'S ORPHANS.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Henry Black, who died some time ago, near Killeshandra, in the county Cavan, served for over thirty years in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and contributed to the Constabulary Force Fund for a period of over forty-six years, in order that his wife and children should be entitled to a gratuity upon his death; that Black's wife died a short time before himself; and that, at the time of Black's death, he left three children, aged nine, eleven, and thirteen years respectively, totally unprovided for; and can he state on what grounds, seeing that these children are destitute, was an application to the Constabulary authorities for a gratuity for them out of the Constabulary Force Fund refused.

MR. WYNDHAM: The contributions of the deceased constable to the fund were made on the express condition (common to all such contributions) that grants would be payable to such children only as were born while he was serving in the force. This being so, the Inspector General is precluded, by the rules governing the fund, from making a grant to the three children in question.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON WATERWORKS.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Local Government Board originally fixed as the area of charge for the Carrick-on-Shannon Waterworks, the Townparks of Carrick-on-Shannon; whether he can state for how many years this arrangement continued, and was it changed as the result of any local inquiry or any local representations; and whether, as the Carrick-on-Shannon No. 1 District Council have always protested against this change, and are still anxious that the original arrangement should stand, the Local Government Board will still oppose the unanimous wishes of the elected representatives of the people in making the expenses a Townpark charge under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1900.

MR. WYNDHAM: The original Order was made on 28th August, 1888. The extending Order of the 15th May, 1899, was confirmed by the Public Works Loans Act of that year. The Board are not aware of any exceptional circumstances in the case of Carrick-on-Shannon, which would warrant a departure from the general policy which it has been found necessary to adopt in regard to the chargeability of these sanitary expenses. If, however, any very special circumstances are brought to my notice I will be prepared to consider them.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is not this change in chargeability causing great friction between the urban and rural district authorities? Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire into such cases——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now putting a general question.

OMAGH RURAL DISTRICT RATES.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that local rates in the Omagh rural district have risen from 2s. 11d. in the pound in the standard year to 4s. 3d. in the pound in the present year—an increase of 35 per cent.; and that the occupier has to pay the whole of the increase; and, in view of the fact that these rates are a burden on the farmers and small shopkeepers, who compose the ratepaying class in Tyrone, will he take care that no further burden be imposed, should the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation (Ireland) Bill be passed into law.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inform himself, by the aid of a competent actuary, as to the probable effects on local rates in Ireland in case the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation (Ireland) Bill were passed into law; and will he give to the House the information so obtained during the discussion on the Bill, and before the Vote is taken on the Second Reading.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The reasons for the increase in the rates were referred to in my answer of the 14th March.[†] I submit that a Committee upstairs will be better able than I could be to examine the actuary whom I am prepared to place at its disposal, and to direct his researches in every pertinent direction. The attitude of the House towards the Bill would be guided, no doubt, by the results of that inquiry, and I may add that I should not support the Third Reading if the risk of any material increase to the rates were revealed.

Mr. TULLY: Did not a similar Act put a quarter of a million on to the English rates?

[No answer was returned.]

LOUGH NEAGH FLOODS.

Mr. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the Guardians of the Lurgan Union, requesting the Government to take steps to have the periodical flooding of lands round Lough Neagh abated; as the loss of crop in this district is great, besides the health of the inhabitants living in flooded areas is seriously endangered; and will he consider the matter with a view to the removal of this danger to the health and property of the district.

Mr. WYNDHAM: This proposal would entail legislation and a large grant of public money. It cannot, accordingly, be entertained.

MORTALITY AMONG CALVES IN IRELAND.

Mr. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture, before securing the services of a bacteriologist from France, conducted any inquiry into the question of the cause of the alleged increased mortality among calves; and whether farmers in the districts affected had been invited to give evidence of the subject; and, if so, where the Reports of such inquiries can be seen.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Before securing the services of Professeur Nocard the Limerick County Council, at the request of the Department, convened a conference of farmers from Cork, Tipperary, Kerry, Clare, and Limerick, to give evidence as to the extent and cause of disease. The conference was held at Limerick on the 8th December, and an account of the proceedings was published in the local press. No official report has been published, but I have called for a newspaper report, and will send it to the hon. Member when I receive it.

Mr. DILLON: But was any evidence taken at the inquiry?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I understand that the Department felt, after the information they obtained at the conference, that the next proper step was to call in an expert.

Mr. DILLON: Then I take it no inquiry was held?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I gather that is so.

ARMAGH MAGISTRACY.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of Roman Catholic and of non-Catholic magistrates in the petty sessions districts of Tynan and Middletown, county Armagh; the numbers, ranks, and religious denomination of the members of the Constabulary in the above districts; and what proportion Roman Catholics bear to the rest of the population in the above districts.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of justices attending these two petty sessions is seven, all of whom are Protestants. There are ten policemen in the districts; one sergeant and four constables are

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[†] See *Debates*, Vol. xc., page 1593.

Roman Catholics, and one sergeant and four constables Protestants. I have no official information on the last query.

STEAM TRAWLING (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. POWER: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when he proposes to take the Second Reading of the Bill introduced by him dealing with the question of steam-trawling off the Irish coasts; and if he will put it down at a time when an adequate discussion can be taken.

MR. WYNDHAM: I understand that the First Lord is about to make a statement in reference to future business, and I would ask the hon. Member to await that statement.

IRISH RAILWAYS—STATE PURCHASE—GERMAN STATE RAILWAYS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the German State railways realised a profit of £23,200,000 last year; and whether he will consider what modifications can be introduced respecting the existing railway system of Ireland, with a view to decrease taxation and increase facilities for goods and passengers.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no information as to the net receipts of the German State railways later than for the year ending 31st March, 1899. In that year the net receipts amounted to £36,230,000.

OMAGH QUARTER SESSIONS—CASE OF GEORGE FEATHERS.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of George Feathers, a labourer, who was tried at the last October quarter sessions at Omagh, when the jury disagreed and the accused was allowed to stand out on bail until the spring assizes of this year, when he was again placed on his trial before Lord Justice Holmes and the jury again disagreed, on which occasion his Lordship is reported to have suggested that it was not a case for a further trial, and he was again let out on bail; and whether, as the accused is poor and has already incurred the expense of two trials, having been defended by professional gentlemen on both occasions, he would be pleased to direct a *nolle prosequi* to be entered.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): My right hon. friend is under a misconception. Lord Justice Holmes's remarks applied to a second trial at the same assizes. I cannot at this period give the undertaking asked for, but if on further examination I consider the case one in which a jury might fairly disagree the Crown will not proceed further.

DUBLIN POST OFFICE—TELEPHONE OPERATORS' WAGE GRIEVANCES.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that the telephone operators who were transferred as switching operators from the National Telephone Company, Dublin, to the post office in May, 1897, at the wages of 12s. and 11s. per week, have received but two increments since that time—namely, 1s. per week in 1897 and 1s. per week in 1898; and that, in addition to the work of switching, they have had since their transfer to perform telegraph and other duties; and, seeing that they have been continually informed that their application for increase of wages is under consideration, whether a decision will soon be arrived at.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir; the circumstances are well known to the Postmaster General. The general question of the pay of telephone operators is still under consideration, but it is hoped that a decision may be arrived at shortly.

MR. NANNETTI: Cannot this case be dealt with at once?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Individual cases will be dealt with as soon as the general scheme has been decided upon.

Mr. NANNETTI: Is it not a fact that although these young ladies, since their transfer to the post office, have had extra work put upon them, their wages have not been increased? I will put another question down about this.

ARMAGH POSTAL OFFICIALS.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can state the numbers, ranks, religious denominations, and salaries of the post office officials in the districts of Tynan and Middletown, county Armagh, and also the proportion which Roman Catholics bear to the remainder of the population in these districts.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General will ascertain and furnish the hon. Member with the numbers, ranks, and salaries of the post office officials in question. He does not, however, know anything as to the number of Roman Catholics in the districts named, and cannot undertake to make any inquiry on the subject.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: Am I right in saying there is not a single Roman Catholic among the officials?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Neither I nor the Postmaster General have any knowledge of the religious belief of any of the officials.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: But surely it would be possible to ascertain?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: We do not think it would be proper to do so.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON IRISH UNIVERSITIES.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has received a resolution passed by the Belfast Methodist Council, representing all the Methodist churches of Belfast, expressing the opinion of the council concerning the constitution of the proposed Royal Commission on the university question; whether the Government will favourably consider the suggestion that the Commission shall be composed of skilled educationalists who have not publicly taken part in supporting or opposing the establishment of a State-aided denominational university for Ireland; and whether care will be taken that no person connected with any educational institution in Ireland will be appointed on the Royal Commission.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): Yes, Sir; I have received the resolution referred to, but I cannot at the present time make any statement as to the constitution of the Committee.

LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT—EQUALISATION OF RATES.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that at the time of the passage of the London Government Bill he gave a pledge that nothing would be done to alter the equalisation of rates throughout the metropolis, and seeing that within the boroughs of Woolwich, Finsbury, and Southwark the incidence of the rates is now altered, he will take such steps as will cause these boroughs to act up to the pledge given.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: A clause was inserted for the purpose of making it clear that nothing in the Act would affect the equalisation of rates. I am not quite sure what is the grievance referred to by the hon. Gentleman, but if he will communicate with the President of the Local Governemnt Board we may be able to satisfy him.

ROAD LABOUR IN IRELAND.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state what opportunities there are for Members of the House to discuss the Provisional Order legalising the system of direct labour on the roads in Ireland before it becomes law, if found unsatisfactory.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: A Provisional Order, before it comes into force, must be in the shape of a Bill which can be discussed on the Second Reading in Committee on the Report stage (if any), and on the Third Reading.

CROFTERS' ACT (1886) AMENDMENT.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the general desire in the Highland crofting counties for the extension of the Crofters' Act, 1886, to leaseholders under £30, will he state whether the Government propose to introduce legislation on the subject this session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, we have no such intention.

MR. WEIR: The right hon. Gentleman gave the same answer six years ago.

SCOTTISH COURT.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can inform the House whether His Majesty the King proposes at an early date to hold a Court in the Scottish Capital.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We have had no intimation of any such intention.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask you, Mr. Speaker, if the Instruction standing in my name on the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill is in order?

*MR. SPEAKER: I must respectfully decline to answer the question until the proper time arrives.

LOCAL TAXATION COMMISSION REPORT.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, having regard to the fact that the Royal Commission on Local Taxation was appointed five years ago, and that the Agricultural Rates Act is to be renewed this year, he will suggest to the Commission the desirability of an early Report, so that it may be in the hands of Members before the debate on the renewal of the Rating Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that the Commission are pressing on with the work, but as they are not a subordinate branch of the Government we have no power of control over their proceedings in any way.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): Is it not the case that the Commissioners closed the taking of evidence in November, 1899, and that this Report was promised before any proposal should be made for the renewal of the Agricultural Rating Act?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware of that promise.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will give the House some idea as to when the new Army proposals are to be discussed.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): May I at the same time ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now without inconvenience state approximately the date of the debate on the resolution of the Secretary of State for War.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am very reluctant to give what is called an approximate statement as to the business of the House, for I find that forecasts are apt to be interpreted as special pledges; and I hope that on the present occasion nothing that I say will be taken as a pledge. Our present view is this—that we should finish the proceedings on the Budget resolution and read the Budget Bill a first time. [Cries of "When?"] As soon as we can. Unfortunately it does not rest with me to settle the length of the debate. We propose that the next business should be the Civil List resolution and the reading of the Civil List Bill a first time; that we then proceed with the Army resolution, and then go to the Second Reading of the Finance Bill. I ought to add that, of course, nothing I have said, it must be understood, will preclude us from using any part of a broken day for other Government business.

SUSPENSION OF THE TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): Does the First Lord, in view of the motion he has on the Paper for the suspension of the Twelve o'Clock Rule, intend to have a late sitting to-night?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. My object in putting the resolution down is in order to prevent the automatic action of the rule preventing the termination of a debate which may be nearly concluded at the hour of midnight.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings of the Committee of Ways and Means, if the Committee be sitting at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 245 Noes, 177. (Division List No. 144).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. SirAlexF.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. AllenBenjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir. MH(Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson(King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, AlexanderH. (Shropsh.
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J A(Glasgow
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J(Birm.
Chamberlain, JAusten(Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. SirJ. (Manc.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, HnAGH. (CityofLondon
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'y
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Middx
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, RobertTrotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, JF. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, F aversh.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, ArthurH(Hants, Fareham
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, RtHn. Walter(Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Macartney, RtHnW. G. Ellison
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M‘Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
M‘Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
M‘Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, JohnThrogm'rt'n
Milton, Viscount
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy

More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C. (N'rth'b., Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheffi'd
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H (Asht'n-und-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Invernes-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, Wm. J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, William
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)

O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, George Wm.(Reading
Partington, Oswald
Pease,SirJoseph W. (Durham)
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,Sir R.Threshie(Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHn.C.R.(Northnts.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Abel(Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas, Dav. Alfred(Merthyr
Thomas, J. A. (Glam.,Gower)
Thompson,E.C(Monaghan,N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick(Meath,North)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Channing and Mr. Caine.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I desire, if I am in order, to move the following Amendment: "That this House declines to read the Army (Annual) Bill a third time until it has received an assurance that the practice of looting while on active service will be more strictly dealt with."

*MR. SPEAKER: That will not be in order. It does not arise out of the Army (Annual) Bill, as the actual conduct of troops in war is not a matter that can be discussed on that Bill.

MR. DILLON: Of course, I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but I should like to ask, on a point of order, whether I should be out of order in debating the subject which I desire to raise on the Third Reading of this Bill. I wish to know whether I would not be in order in referring to the administration of that part of the Army (Annual) Bill which deals with this offence of looting.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is obviously an Amendment with the view of discussing the conduct of troops in looting. That would be out of order. It is quite obvious that it would be out of order to introduce that subject now.

MR. DILLON: Yes, Sir, I accepted your ruling with regard to the Amendment. What I propose to ask now is whether I should not be in order in examining the Army Bill as to whether it has been effectual in dealing with the question of looting. It appears to me that inasmuch as the Army (Annual) Bill is the only machinery by which the Army is kept together, and is the Bill under which all discipline is maintained, I should be in order in discussing whether the Bill in its present shape has been successful in dealing with this most important particular.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is practically the same question over again. The hon. Member may point out that the Army (Annual) Bill should be differently worded, but he cannot proceed to discuss the action of the troops or of the administration. He may point out particular clauses to which he takes objection.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) thought this was the time to bring before the Government the necessity for the consolidation of the Army Acts. In 1879 there was the Discipline Act, which was amended in the two following years; and in 1881 a Liberal Government brought in a Consolidation Act for the purpose of consolidating the Amendments. Since then there had been Amendments to the Army Act of 1881 every year, and anyone wanting to know the state of the law at the present moment with regard to the Army had not only to take up the Act of 1881, but to go through every Army (Annual) Act since then.

before the law could be possibly understood. It was quite true there was power given to reprint the Act with Amendments, but the Act was not reprinted and put upon the Statute-book by Parliament. It was reprinted, he supposed, by the officials of the War Office. He was not astonished that the hon. Member for West Waterford the other evening was not able to find a particular section to which the Secretary of State for War was referring in the Army Act of 1881, although the words were to be found in the Act as reprinted. The Government of course reprinted the Act in the manual for the Army, and, so far as the Army were concerned, they had all they wanted; but there were other people in the country who were interested in the Army Act besides officers. There were the general public and Members of this House. How did the matter stand at present? The last reprint placed in the library only brought the law down to 1893, and anyone wanting to know the existing state of the law must either obtain the manual prepared by the War Office or must follow the statutes from 1893 to the present. He had brought this matter forward before, and had received admissions that the time had come for consolidation, and every year increased that necessity. Surely after an Act of Parliament had been in operation for twenty years, in every one of which it had been amended, it was time to have a Consolidation Act. What was the difficulty? The Army Act of 1881 consisted of 193 clauses and five schedules. How long did it take to pass the House of Commons in 1881? There were only two short speeches on the Second Reading, the Bill was considered in Committee and reported without amendment, and the Third Reading was passed on the same day. In the House of Lords it passed through all its stages in one day. There had been many innovations since the new procedure; there had been Workshops Acts consolidation and Public Health Acts consolidation, and wherever there was any amended Bill, as in the case of the Army Bill, the same precedent could be followed as in 1881. The Bill could be amended and produced in the House with its Amendments, and then it could be given out to a draughtsman who would carry out the effect of the law; and where there was no alteration in the law upon the Statute-book, a Bill could be passed through the House without trouble. It was a fallacy to suppose that, because there was a subsequent Act changing the words of a section, it was therefore a complete Act of Parliament. It was nothing of the kind, because everybody knew perfectly well that it was almost impossible to make any alteration in an Act of Parliament without affecting other matters more or less remote from the subject referred to. That was what was discovered in 1881, when it was found necessary, by the addition of some verbal alterations, to give effect to certain clauses which had been altered. It was not right that a matter affecting such an important subject as the Army Bill, where there were other interests besides the officers' to be considered, that the House should be dependent upon the official copy of the Act which was put into the library. If it were gone over by a draughtsman there would be found to be many slight alterations necessary, which, however, would not involve any discussion in the House. As it was, they had now on the Paper a makeshift amending Bill, which would have to be followed by a Consolidation Bill which would pass the House if brought forward without a single observation being made upon it. He was not regarding the present Bill from the point of view of amending it, but he thought the time had arrived when a Consolidation Act should be brought in, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War, who had shown great courage in the matter of Army reform, would see his way to commence his reforms by a reform of the Army Act.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said he was sorry he could not support the hon. Member for Mid Lanark to the extent of asking for a Consolidation Act in the present year. He did not think it would be possible to obtain it before next year. He was sorry that something more had not been done in regard to holding courts-martial upon officers who had been unfortunate, and had had to surrender, or who had lost their regiments through accident, as was done in the

Navy in the case of an officer who had lost his ship. It was a great pity some system was not projected for the purpose. He had risen to inquire what had been the precise result of the discussions that had taken place in reference to the courts of inquiry with regard to the alterations to be made this year and the new additions proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War. He did not understand how they would affect all courts of inquiry, or whether some of the courts of inquiry had been practically illegal, or whether they were justified in giving "findings" as well as the mere report of evidence. He would like to hear the right hon. Gentleman upon those points.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) said he certainly was not disposed, and could hardly be expected, to take up time in rediscussing the subject of courts of inquiry for the benefit of the hon. Member, who did not happen to be present in the small hours of Tuesday morning. As regards the question raised by the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, the speech of the hon. Gentleman was almost as hardy an annual as the Army Bill itself, but he did not think there was any valid grievance. At the instance of the right hon. Member for Stirling the Act was reprinted in 1893, and a copy of that reprint was in the library, but he was prepared to give a pledge that it should be reprinted again with any Amendments which had been made in the interval. Unless there were any serious changes made in the Army Act he could not pledge the Government to bring in a Consolidation Bill.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 325; Noes, 67. (Division List No. 145.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.Stroud
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alex.
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry,Sir FrancisT.(Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T.Gibson(King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J.Austen(Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon.Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Dyke,RtHon.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
Faber, George Denison
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H.(Cityo'Lond.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. HerbertJ.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon

Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hamilton,RtHnL'dG.(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'derry
Hanbury,Rt.Hn. Robert Wm.
Harcourt, Rt.Hon.SirWilliam
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harwood, George
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon.CharlesSeale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon.SirArthurD.
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie(Hampst'd
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, C.E.H.(Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope,J.F.(Sheff'ld,Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kearley. Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W.(Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, ArthurH(Hants.Fareham
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther,RtHnJW(Cum.Penr.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Calmont, Col. J.(Antrim,E.
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John Wm.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John. T.
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. J. (Montrose
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer,GeorgeWm.(Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John. S. G.
Percy, Earl
Philipps, John Wynford
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Purvis Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid,SirR.Threshie (Dumfries
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley,Hn.M.W. (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert(Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C(N'th'mb.,Tyneside
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt. Hn.C.R.(North'ts
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Uni.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J.A.(Gl'm'rgan,G'w'r
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw.Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,ColSirCEH(Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wallace, Robert
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas C. T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,Lt-ColA.C.E.(Taunt'
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley,H(Asht'n-und-Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams. O. (Merioneth)
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Woodhouse,SirJ T(Huddersf'd
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C..B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John

Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland
Campbell, John (Armagh S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Dermott, Patrick
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryM'd
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Schwann, Charles E.
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson,E C.(Monaghan,N.
Tully, Jasper
White, Patrick(Meath,North)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

TEA.

1. Motion made, and question proposed, "That the Customs duty now charged on tea shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two, that is to say, Tea the pound 6d."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

*SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central) said he desired to say a few words with reference to the duty and its incidence. He was speaking on behalf of an industry in which thirty millions of British money were invested, which had caused jungles to be turned into smiling tea-gardens, and which had given employment to hundreds of thousands of persons. The industry was, by the admission of the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself, doing extremely badly. There were forty-five companies registered in London, with a capital of £9,000,000, or nearly one-third of the total amount invested in the tea trade. In 1897 he found that capitalwas worth £12,000,000, to-day it was worth less than £7,500,000. Seventy per cent. of the companies engaged in the tea industry were paying no dividend. The result was that large numbers of these concerns had to go to the wall, and that there was a great loss of employment among the coolies. The Committee would doubtless be told that the present state of the industry was largely due to over-production. There had undoubtedly been a too rapid development of tea-gardens, but in imposing so high a tax upon tea the Government was rather straining its prerogative, and using its giant strength recklessly like a giant. If India were a self-governing colony it would be impossible to impose such taxation, as she would very soon retaliate on cotton or steel goods. No one apparently would stand up for India. There was in the House an Indian Minister, who admirably governed that Empire, but he was perhaps too much a British Minister to stand up for purely Indian interests. That the planters had been quite ready to do their duty by the Empire would be acknowledged when the Committee remembered the brilliant services rendered in South Africa by Lumsden's Horse, a body of men raised and paid for by the planters. They did not mind bearing their share, but they did object to paying the whole of the tax, as they were practically doing. The greater proportion, if not the whole, of the twopence had fallen on the producer, as the retailer was at present selling tea at nearly the same price as before the duty was imposed. The duty was out of all proportion to the cost price of article taxed, and had been most unfairly levied on tea, as compared with similar drinks, such as cocoa and coffee. Cocoa, with a wholesale price of 6d., was taxed only 1½d., and coffee, with a wholesale price of 8d., also paid 1½d.; but tea, with an average wholesale price of 6d., was taxed at 6d., or 100 per cent. In 1881 the average price of tea was 1s. 5d., with a duty of 6d., or 35 per cent. of the cost price. In 1891 the average cost was 7½d., with a duty of 4d., or 38 per cent. In 1901 the average price was 7d., and, for the last two months, 6d., with a duty of 6d., or 100 per cent. Millions of pounds of tea were sold at 3d., 3½d., and 4d. per pound, so that the duty on that was no less than 150 per cent. All Members professed great devotion to temperance, but that devotion was hardly proved by putting a tax of 100 per cent. on the chief temperance drink. While quite agreeing that the large class of the community who did not pay income tax, or consume alcohol, or smoke tobacco, should contribute towards the war expenses, he could not understand why tea alone should bear the burden. Why should coffee and cocoa, of which there was a largely increasing consumption, be exempted from the increase of taxation? In 1899 the value of the Indian tea imported was £4,467,000, and the duty paid £2,270,000, or, roughly, 50 per cent. In 1901, the value of the crop, although a much larger one, was only £4,025,000, or £450,000 less, and yet the duty charged was £3,450,000. Tea, which was one of the few luxuries of the labouring classes, bore as heavy a burden of taxation as 100 per cent., while wine was taxed only to the extent of 30 per cent. Heavy duties, however, defeated their own object. In America the imposition of a tea duty of 10 cents, or 5d., caused a fall in the consumption from 113,000,000 pounds to 70,000,000 pounds. But in Australia, where the duty ranged from 1d. to 3d. per pound, the consumption per head was 7½ pounds, or 25 per cent. more than in this country. It could not be suggested that 150 per cent. was a fair duty to be put upon an article of such large and universal consumption. The only real satisfaction the tea planters had was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not be able to extract from their pockets any income tax. It was cold comfort, but, at any rate, the result of the duty had been to leave them without any profits to pay income tax upon. It was utterly unscientific finance to tax an article out of existence, but that was the fate threatening the tea industry. He, however, admitted the difficulty of making a reduction, at any rate, this year, and he was not going to move one; but he could not let the imposition of the tax again this year pass without protest. As President of the Indian Tea Association in London, he represented an absolutely united industry, with £30,000,000 behind it, and he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would at the earliest possible moment once more reduce the tea duty to its proper level of 40 per cent.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) moved the omission of the words "first day of August," in order to insert "sixth day of March." The resolution passed in 1899 provided that a duty of 4d. should be charged from 1st August, 1899, until 1st August, 1900. In 1900, by the corresponding resolution, the duty was raised to 6d., and made payable from 6th March, 1900, until 1st August, 1901, the effect being that the increased duty was levied for not twelve, but seventeen months. The object of the proposed Amendment was to make the duty in its present form cease on 6th March next. He believed the House would wish to have an opportunity of considering an alteration of the tea duty at the earliest possible moment, and that was the reason for the Amendment. He agreed with much that had been said by the hon. Member for Central Hull. The tax upon tea was unfair upon both producer and consumer. The case of the producer was very serious in India and Ceylon. Several years ago, when he visited Ceylon, the coffee plantations had been practically ruined, and it was the exception to find a coffee planter who had not been or was not bankrupt. Bankruptcy was so common in the Island that it was considered to be no disgrace, and people joked and gossipped about their various positions in the bankruptcy court as though it was the most natural thing imaginable to be in that position. That was about seventeen years ago, and since then a new industry—the tea industry—had been started, and everyone with the interest of the Island at heart had observed with delight how that industry had grown and flourished. There was no portion of the Empire which gave less trouble than Ceylon; in fact, when he was there the whole

Island was held by a brass band. He therefore ventured to put in a plea for the Island, and also on behalf of the consumer, who undoubtedly paid a very large share of the tax, whatever might be the indirect effect upon the planter. With regard to India, that was a country which had over and over again been treated very shabbily in regard to a great many matters, such for instance as the Soudan Expedition. A large number of Members on the Government side of the House considered that, with regard to the Soudan Expedition, India was treated very shabbily indeed by this country, and only their loyalty to the Government prevented their going into the Lobby against the proposal when the question was raised by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose. In the interests of the consumer at home, and also having regard to the great dependency of India and Ceylon, he hoped that, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not willing to give way this year, some alteration would be made in the tax as early as possible next year, and with that object in view he moved the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, to leave out the words 'first day of August, and insert the words 'sixth day of March.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) said that as an Amendment had been moved, he must confine himself to the question of date. The hon. Member began by stating that in 1899, August was named as the date of the expiring of the tax. The reason for that was obvious. It was necessary to allow sufficient time after the ordinary period of the year at which the Budget was introduced to prevent the clearing of tea in the expectation of an alteration in the duty. It was absolutely necessary, in the interests of the revenue, with regard to such articles as tea, which could be cleared in anticipation of an increased duty, or held back in anticipation of a decreased duty, that a considerable number of months should be named beyond the date at which the duty might be altered by the Budget of the year, so as to avoid that sort of thing. Last year, as the hon. Member had said, March 6th was adopted, but that was because, for obvious reasons, the Budget was introduced at a very early date. It was not likely that the Budget would again be brought in so early in the year, and therefore he must adhere to the month of August.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS readily responded to the appeal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The arguments adduced by the right hon. Gentleman in favour of adhering to the date named in the resolution were such that could hardly be controverted, and he therefore begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) reminded the Committee that in the Budget debate last year he complained of the inequality and injustice of the system of levying the tax on tea, and suggested that if possible tea should be taxed on value instead of on weight. The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted that there was some cause for complaint, and promised to investigate the matter between then and the next Budget night, and see if anything could be done in the matter. He now desired to ask whether the necessary inquiries had been made as to the feasibility of the suggestion. The point was very obvious. The labourer with 12s. a week paid just as much duty per pound on the commonest tea as the rich man with an income of £10,000 a year paid per pound on the best tea, and that was surely most unfair. If the right hon. Gentleman had been too busy during the past year to pay any attention to the matter, would he renew his pledge to consider it? The hon. Member also desired to join in the protest against the tax altogether. While only £1,250,000 was raised on wine, consumed by the rich, nearly £4,000,000 was raised on tea, which was an article consumed by the poor. The question should certainly be taken seriously in hand, and the skill of finance applied to relieve the burden from the poor, and to place it more on the shoulders of the rich.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.), in moving to reduce the tea duty from

6d. to 4d. per lb., said that, hard as was the case of India, that of Ireland in regard to the tea duty was harder. From time to time the Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that he would never consent to make any difference in matters of taxation between Ireland and Great Britain, but, unless he was determined rigidly to adhere to that decision, there could not be a better case for making such a difference between the two countries than that to be found in the matter of the tax upon tea. An enormous amount was paid by way of this tax in Ireland, and the fact that tea was consumed there to a much greater extent than in England proved at once that the tax fell with greater severity upon the Irish than upon the English taxpayers.

The latest figures obtainable showed that, whereas the average consumption of tea in Great Britain was 5½ lbs. per head of the population, in Ireland it was 6½ lbs. One might almost say, therefore, that tea was the national drink of Ireland. Would-be facetious Members sometimes pointed out that the Irish people drank too much alcohol, but anybody who studied the figures would find that the percentage of alcohol consumed in Ireland was much less than the percentage in England or Scotland. But if it was desirable to promote the cause of temperance the last thing that should be done was to make tea dearer. Tea was an article of diet which was necessary for the people, and from the temperance point of view he believed that, if Parliament continued to make tea dearer, the Irish consumer, who was used to taking tea with his principal meals, would in all probability in the end be driven to take alcoholic drinks instead. Before 1817 the tax upon tea in Great Britain was four or five times as much as in Ireland, but then the tax was equalised in the two countries, and the Irish people had suffered accordingly ever since. According to the figures of the hon. Member for West Islington, the taxation of Ireland had grown from £7,500,000, in 1893, to £8,600,000, in 1900, a rise of £1,100,000, but in the same way that taxation had gone up regularly year by year the population had regularly gone down, so that while in 1893 the population stood at 4,600,000 it was now 4,500,000, a decrease of 100,000. The census returns would doubtless prove that, as the population had enormously decreased, the taxation per head had increased. That was a most extraordinary state of affairs, and one peculiar to Ireland. Certainly, it was one which should cause the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inquire whether it was not possible in some way so to treat Ireland in the matter of taxation that this extraordinary state of affairs should be discontinued. Last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he proposed to put an extra 2d. on tea, justified it by saying that the prosperity of Ireland was largely increasing, and he referred to various matters in order to prove that statement. He mentioned savings banks deposits, railway rates, and various other things, to show that the Irish people were prosperous and well able to bear the burden of taxation. The right hon. Gentleman then pointed out in a triumphant way that emigration was on the decrease, and he stated that in 1898 the number of people who emigrated from Ireland was 32,000, or 10,000 less than the year before. He had looked into the figures, and he found that, whereas 23,000 people emigrated in 1898, in 1899 the total was 42,000, and in 1900 no less than 48,000 people left Ireland. It would be seen, therefore, that there had been, since the year referred to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, not a decrease but an increase in the number of people who had year by year left the country. That being so, the prosperity spoken of could not be a reality, because it was impossible for this flow of emigration to gather volume and become greater every year if there existed in Ireland amongst the masses of the people the opportunity of living in comfort and prosperity at home in their own country.

Under those circumstances he proposed that the tax should be left as it was before. In the year 1898–99 £564,000 was paid in taxation upon tea by Ireland. He found that in the year 1899–90 no less than £648,000 was paid by way of taxation in Ireland on tea. What the figures for last year were they were quite in ignorance of, and he thought it was a most inconvenient and improper thing that when they were called upon each year at this period to consider fresh taxation they had not got at their disposal the figures in regard to what these taxes had realised during the past year. He was aware that there were no fresh proposals in reference to the tax on tea this year, but he refused to consent this year to renew the 50 per cent. tax which was put upon tea last year, until he knew what the tax realised last year in Ireland. Before they were asked to consent to put 6d. upon tea they ought, in common fairness and honesty, to be told by the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much this additional tax yielded in Ireland last year. He did not know when the figures in reference to the amount realised during the financial year ending March last would be given, but as far as he understood the matter those figures never were available until August, when the session was almost over, and when it was impossible to make use of them. All they were able to do at present was to make some sort of estimate. Taking the basis of last year, he arrived at the conclusion that the addition of 2d. per lb. on tea would realise at least £325,000, and if they added to that the sum of £648,000, which was the amount raised by the tea duty before the extra tax was imposed, they would find that Ireland last year contributed by way of taxation on tea a sum not very far short of £1,000,000 sterling.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I will try to have these figures presented earlier next year, for that would certainly be an advantage. As far as I can tell—and I would remind hon. Members that the last year's receipts have been much upset by forestalments—the total amount received last year on tea was £6,250,000, and the Irish share of that would be £875,000.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he estimated that it would be over £900,000, and that sum was not far off a million pounds. The figures given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer were no doubt correct, and they showed an increase of considerably over £250,000 at the very least upon the amount paid by Ireland before the extra 2d. was put upon tea last year. In all seriousness, this was a matter upon which they really had a grievance that would be recognised by everybody who inquired into the circumstances. He found that throughout the length and breadth of his own constituency, comprising between 12,000 and 13,000 electors, tea was the one article of diet above all others which was more largely and regularly used than any single thing which the people put into their mouths. They took tea with their breakfast and at their evening meal, and if they were working in the fields tea was often brought to them in cans—in fact they never took anything else as a rule to drink. Of course the people who went to fairs and markets from time to time often had a drink of whisky, and small blame to them; but tea, which was one of the principal articles of consumption by the poor people of Ireland, had been singled out by the Government for extra taxation. He was not in favour of placing an additional tax on alcoholic beverages, although he was as much in favour of temperance as any other section of hon. Members of the House. He thought alcoholic beverages had been taxed to the utmost extent in Ireland. But although he objected to additional taxation upon alcoholic beverages he thought the Government should have found some means of raising taxation without putting a fresh burden upon the necessaries of life. They knew why an additional 2d. was put upon tea. For the same reason sugar and coal had been taxed this year and the income tax had been raised. This additional burden had been placed upon the people of Ireland, because they had to contribute towards the monstrous state of affairs existing in South Africa at the present time. He did not propose to go into that question now, but he held that the Irish people ought to be exempted from the slightest taxation which had been necessitated by the war. If there was one part of the country where the war had been denounced more than any other it was in Ireland, where they considered that it had been not only most disastrous to the credit of this country, but also unprofitable in every other way. The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted the other night that the people of this country would have to pay for the war, and pay the full cost, and nothing was more striking and straightforward than his statement that it was nonsense and humbug to lead people to believe that the Transvaal would be able to bear any portion worth mentioning of the cost of the war. That statement meant that the war would have to be paid for out of the hard-earned money of the taxpayer of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The people of England allowed this war to be brought about, and they applauded it from the commencement. They rended the air with shouts of satisfaction at every fresh expense incurred, and at every fresh detachment of troops which were marched through the streets with bands playing. He thought that if the people of England were polled now they would be sorry that they did that. They were now beginning to realise that the game was not worth the candle, and that it would have been better for the security and the prosperity of the Empire if the Boers had been left in their own country, and if the resources of this country had been devoted to the safeguarding the British Empire as it stood instead of endeavouring to increase it by conquest. The hon. Member for Oldham stated that every lump of sugar put into her tea by an old woman would be firing a shot at Kruger, but he did know whether that statement would be sufficient to arouse the enthusiasm of the women at Oldham. When the British workman was informed by his wife that she had to pay more for her sugar and he had to fork out more money, he would commence to realise that all this jingo bluster and brag could not be none for nothing, that the day of reckoning had arrived, that the spree was over, and the taxpayer was beginning to find that the wine was bad and he had got a headache. The taxpayers of Ireland ought not be called upon to bear a farthing of the cost of this war, as they had hated it from the beginning and they hated it now. He proposed this Amendment upon two grounds. In the first place he thought that any additional taxation upon Ireland on account of this war was unfair and unnecessary, and in the second place he objected to it on the ground that Ireland was already overtaxed for Imperial matters. He moved his Amendment in order to reduce the tax to what it was before last year, on the ground that in this special article of tea Ireland was particularly injured, while they objected to any taxation in any shape or form for the purposes of this war. They considered that if they must be taxed it was an outrage to take the principal article of consumption in the country, and strike a blow at the cause of temperance by putting a tax upon the principal beverage of the people.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 4, to leave out the word 'sixpence,' and insert the word 'fourpence.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixpence' stand part of the resolution."

*Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) thought his hon. friend who had just sat down had put the matter before the Committee very cogently. He had proposed a clean reduction of the tax to its old figure, and if there was to be any reduction that would be the most logical way of meeting the matter. He believed that any attempt to graduate the tea tax would be a failure, and it would be unworkable and would not have the effect which some hon. Members thought it would. Supposing that facilities were given by this House for the free importation and distribution of the commonest kind of tea. You would not do the agricultural labourer any good at all. Common tea was not economical for it was the dearest that the labourer could possibly have, and if this House would take means to prevent the labourer getting common tea and ensure that he should obtain only a good quality in tea and other articles of food it would do him more good than taking means to facilitate the distribution of what was bad. If the tax on tea was graduated as was proposed to be done in regard to sugar the inevitable effect would be to put a premium on the lowest quality, which would beat down the higher qualities in order that the article might come in at the lowest rate allowed by the scale. If any reduction in the duty on tea took place it ought to be an all round reduction such as the hon. Member for East Clare had proposed. He hoped that this matter would be carefully considered by the Government. This review of the tea tax was the first opportunity the Committee had of considering the effect of the additions made to taxation last year on the various articles upon which the rates had been increased. With regard to spirits, the right hon. Gentleman said they had reached the top limit; but his estimate with regard to wine had not been realised. For the first time he said his beer estimate had not been realised.

Then the Chancellor of the Exchequer came to tea, and he admitted that although the tax had produced as much as he expected a most disastrous blow had been struck at business by the tax. This raised a question of the greatest economic magnitude which the Committee ought to consider. This was the first increase which had taken place in the tax on tea since that article had begun to be grown so largely in British Colonies. The tremendous growth of the tea industry was one of the most astonishing movements which had taken place in British colonies during the last thirty years. For the first time the House was taking a new step, and it was no light thing when they had reduced the tax to a low level suddenly to increase it. It was very important to look at the effect produced by this tax, for it was such that it ought to make the Government pause before they made such experiments. He would compare the article of tea with sugar. We got 84 per cent. of all the tea used in this country from the colonies, and only 16 per cent. from foreign countries. On the other hand, we got 94 per cent. of our sugar from foreign countries and only 6 per cent. from the colonies. The tea so largely consumed by our people was for the most part produced in India and Ceylon, and undoubtedly the increase in the tax which was made last year had struck a disastrous blow to the industry. The hon. Member opposite had stated that the whole of this tax would fall upon the producer, but he did not think it would. The consumption of tea had been checked, which had caused prices to fall, and thereby the produce had been hit. The consumer also had suffered; if there had been over-production, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated, the consumer would have got the benefit, but he had not got it, because he had to pay considerably more for his tea. Before the tax was raised tea had been sold at 1s. per pound, but now it was not retailed at less than 1s. 2d., and it would be of great benefit if the extra 2d. were taken off. Therefore the consumer paid the increase. The Chancellor of the Exchequer contrasted the position now with what it was at the time of the war with France between 1814 and 1815. It was an extraordinary thing to say, when they remembered how the well-being of the people had increased since that period, that the finding of a great sum of money unexpectedly and for a new purpose might impose almost greater burdens on the people now than it did ninety or one hundred years ago. Although wealth had increased it was invested in great enterprises, and it was not easy suddenly to withdraw the money from those enterprises in order to apply it to any other purpose. Therefore it would be well if the expenditure of the country could be so restricted that the gradual growth of taxation would meet the requirements of the country without putting on new taxes. It would be a great benefit now if the 2d. put upon tea could be withdrawn, and if his hon. friend pressed this motion to a division he should vote with him, because it was a most important question.

When they came to the case of Ireland, certainly his hon. friend had submitted to the House one or two important facts which ought to be carefully considered. There was no way they could hit Ireland worse than by raising the tax on tea or tobacco. Perhaps tea was the most important article of necessity for the Irish people, and nearly £900,000 had been paid by this poor small island last year on this one article. He wished to put one point to the hon. Gentleman who was representing the Chancellor of the Exchequer at that moment. If he might make a suggestion to the Irish Members, he would advise them not to allow the further stages of this Budget to be taken until the figures with regard to the taxation of Ireland for the year ending the 31st of March last were placed before the House. The Government did not intend to put them before the House at the time when they would be the most use. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had given them one figure in regard to the tea duty, and there could be no difficulty in supplying the others because the figures must be known to the Treasury. The gross amount realised by all the taxes of the United Kingdom had been quoted, and if that was known then the amount that had come from Ireland was known and the Irish Members ought to wake up the Treasury upon this question.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I will make inquiries as to the Return, for there is no desire whatever to keep back this information.

*MR. LOUGH said he was an old hand at this game, for he had tried to get the figures every year for six years. He had written to the Treasury for them but the result was that the House never got them until August. He thought he had satisfied the House that the figures were in existence, and they could easily be laid before the House prior to proceeding with the later stages of the Budget. He thought there was much in the condition of Ireland to make this House pause before it piled upon Ireland such heavy burdens of taxation. The House took most curious action with regard to Ireland in this matter. The House got from Ireland most interesting Returns as to pauperism, emigration, and so forth, but no attention whatever was paid to them. He was told that 48,000 people emigrated from Ireland last year. An Irish Member who recently addressed the Dublin Chamber of Commerce made an interesting calculation regarding what that meant in money. The average age of these emigrants was 22 years. Assuming that each had cost £5 per annum to bring up, Ireland was a loser by £110 for each one of these 48,000 emigrants. They were lost to the country at the time that they had become producers, and might do something to repay to the country the expenditure that had been made upon them. Thus, he proved that Ireland had to pay the terrible price of £5,000,000 in one year for this stream of emigration from the country. This House was doing nothing all the time to help the country, but rather putting increased taxation on it. There was a great article of food in Ireland which was not taxed. He meant the potato. The annual Return given to the House with regard to the potato crop in Ireland showed the alarming fact that last year it decreased 33 per cent.—900,000 tons of potatoes all over the country. Taking it at £3 per ton this would mean a loss of £2,750,000. This House paid no attention to these extraordinary events with which the poor people of Ireland had to deal. The hon. Member for East Clare put the cost Ireland would have to pay for the war at £2,500,000. No other British dependency paid a penny. Canada had been as much in favour of the war as England or Scotland, but would Canada contribute anything? Not a shilling. Canada sent soldiers, but the Canadians got 5s. per day, while the Irish soldiers got fifteen pence. There was an example of the inequality with which Ireland was treated as compared with other parts of the Empire. With these facts before the minds of the Irish people at all times, was it to be wondered that the representatives of Ireland pressed their claims with such vehemence? The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement drew a comparison between what the people of England had to pay this year for this great war and what they had to pay in 1814–15. In 1815 we had the advantage of knowing what Great Britain and Ireland paid respectively. Great Britain paid that year £78,000,000 with a population of 14,000,000. The population of Great Britain had gone up to 36,000,000, so that if she paid the same amount now per head as in 1815 she should pay £195,000,000; but she was only asked to pay £140,000,000, or 25 per cent. less, notwithstanding the great increase in wealth per head of the population, than she paid in the year of Waterloo, and the year before it. What did Ireland pay? Ireland had a population of 6,250,000 then, and paid £6,500,000 altogether, and that was a terrible burden on her. If she paid this year the same proportion according to population as in 1815 she would pay only £5,000,000, but if she paid the same proportion according to population as Great Britain was paying, she would only pay £4,000,000. But she was asked to pay £10,250,000. This single illustration indicated the eighty years financial ill-treatment of Ireland. During that period the contribution of the British per head had decreased 25 per cent., but the contribution of Ireland had been more than doubled. That was the great history of injustice his hon. friends from Ireland were constantly preaching in this House. He thought they ought to get a careful reply from the Government whether nothing could be done with regard to the important matter of the tea duty.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): It would be difficult to make out a stronger case than the hon. Member for East Clare has made for the reduction of the duty on tea. The extraordinary Budget introduced to the House is probably one of the most unpopular that has ever been submitted. The proposal has been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to add for an indefinite period at least £11,000,000 to the permanent taxation of the country. I dare say that when the time comes other demands will be made to the House to provide for the abnormal expenditure in consequence of the South African war. Above all other parts of the Empire Ireland should most certainly escape any increase of taxation in connection with the war, because on every possible occasion, both inside and outside the House, the people of Ireland, through their elected representatives, have taken every opportunity to protest against the war. Although they have dissociated themselves in every possible way from it, a tremendous increase of taxation has been brought about, and the Irish people are now compelled to pay the piper, although they did not call the tune. They have to assist in finding vast sums of money, not to speak of other sacrifices which have been made, for carrying on all this insane policy in South Africa. My hon. friend very properly laid great stress upon that injustice. I do not expect that anything I can say will change the mind of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because, of course, one of the difficulties under which we labour is that no matter what case we make out for the redress of Irish grievances, we are told that practically we must abide by the results of a partnership to which our forefathers certainly were not parties, and which, if we could by any possible means, we would most certainly shake off.

Now the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to renew the tea tax of 6d. per pound. It is perhaps remarkable that it was Mr. Gladstone in 1861 who first fixed the duty on tea at 6d. per pound. This country has progressed very much since then, but now, forty years after that, we find the same proposal made with regard to this most used article of diet. That does not show to my mind that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is acting on progressive lines with regard to the article which has the greatest consumption in the country. In 1898, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer had a comparatively large surplus, the tea tax was reduced to 4d. per pound, and he also reduced the tobacco tax the same year. The right hon. Gentleman has since then changed his policy, and placed the tea tax again on the people. I agree with my hon. friend that the tax on tea presses on the poor in Ireland in a very peculiar way. Tea is universally used in Ireland, and I am sorry to say in this connection that I fear we are made to pay in another way in Ireland besides taxation. It is a lamentable fact that lunacy in Ireland is largely on the increase. I have acted magisterially in a great number of cases in my own county in which unfortunate persons have had to be committed to asylums, and over and over again medical testimony has been produced that the persons to be committed had largely used tea of an inferior quality. Now, one of the results of keeping up the high tax on tea is that you compel the poorer classes to make use of tea of an inferior quality. I know that some hon. Gentlemen will not agree with that portion of my argument. Some may say that the question of taxation does not enter into the intrinsic value of tea or of its quality as it might appear to do. But I find that we have thrown on to the Irish market very large quantities of inferior rubbish, gathered from London warehouses, which is sold retail at from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per pound. This tea being offered to the poor Irish people under exceptional circumstances, they buy large quantities of it and use it, not immoderately, but largely. It so happens that being so very poor they mostly live on a vegetable diet, mostly potatoes, and if on the top of that they take this trashy tea, it is easy to understand, and it is not to be wondered at, that that is the cause of the increase of lunacy in our country. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told us just now that nearly a million of money had been extracted from Ireland during the past year for this tea duty.

That came upon me as a great surprise. I certainly did not think that so large a sum as £875,000 could possibly be collected from our country for this simple article of tea. The right hon. Gentleman introduced his Budget in a perfectly frank—almost brutally frank—manner. While the tea duty might be a perfectly legitimate imposition as regards England, it is not so to a poor country like Ireland, which has protested against the war from the very beginning; and the Irish Members are bound to protest against this impost, and to take every opportunity the rules of the House afford them to try and induce the Government to change their mind in regard to the taxation of tea. I would have been in favour of the hon. Member for East Clare moving to exempt Ireland from this tax altogether. I think that would have been the fairest way. The right hon. Gentleman told us that in four years the tax on tea had jumped up in Ireland from £490,000 to £875,000. That is an alarming statement — an increase of almost 100 per cent.—and is a sufficient justification for any action we may take in opposing this resolution. It has been said, very properly, that the imposition of this large tax on tea in Ireland is a discouragement to temperance. I am glad to see two distinguished advocates of temperance on the other side of the House, and I am sure they will agree with me that there is nothing that contributes so much to temperance as to encourage the use of tea.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): Will the hon. Gentleman agree to an increased tax on whisky?

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I am not interested in the whisky trade in the slightest degree.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: I did not desire to make any personal reflection and if I have hurt the hon. Gentleman, I beg pardon.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I can assure the hon. Gentleman that I am as strong a teetotaler as he is. The hon. Member for East Clare, in moving this Amendment, pointed out very truly that the poor peasantry in Ireland rarely go to the market towns—only once a week or once a fortnight. They may then take some refreshment, because they may have come long distances, and may not have had much food, and they do sometimes transgress the rules of temperance; but I do not think complaint can be made against them about their conduct in their own houses or on their small farms. I have seen them in their homes and at work in their fields, and the beverage which they take is tea. The right hon. Gentleman could not confer a much greater favour upon those who wish to see the cause of temperance progress than if he could see his way to accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for East Clare. But the Amendment proceeds on the higher ground of the financial relations between the two countries. In Ireland taxation goes up and population goes down. We cannot believe that it is a good thing to see a country's population going down. For every individual who goes out of the country the country loses a wealth-producing unit, whether the circumstances of the country are good or bad. I have seen it stated that every adult who lands in a new country means for that country an increase of national wealth of £200 a year. Our people are going steadily away from Ireland, and leaving those behind them to bear a heavier share of the increasing burdens, and I do not know how those who remain will be able to endure it at all, because of the fiscal relations which exist between the two countries. The right hon. Gentleman has been perfectly frank with this House as to the means by which he intends to meet his great responsibilities, but if he could see his way to differentiate between England and Ireland on this matter, it would be only a matter of £200,000 or less. We are entitled to it, because we have been no parties to the cause of your expenditure, and it would afford a substantial relief to the poorest class of our people I know the difficulties of the right hon. Gentleman, and that he has had to suffer in his own person, it may be said, for the sins of others, and that he has to pay the bill which others have created, I do hope that this Amendment, proposed in all seriousness and moderation, will receive consideration. If the right hon. Gentleman can meet us on this point, we are not so much interested in the coal duty, and might be able to see our way to help him in that other point. And if he does so, he would establish upon the Irish Members, and the people of Ireland generally, a claim to more credit than perhaps he will get from his own friends behind him.

*SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.) said he was sorry that this truly Imperial question had been reduced to the lower plane of an Irish question. Still, he believed that the remarks of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway opposite had proved two things which should make anyone rejoice who had the good of the people at heart—first, that there was a very large consumption of tea in Ireland, and, second, that whereas two years ago the hon. Member for East Mayo denounced the consumption of tea as a poisonous beverage compared with whisky—— [Cries from the Irish Benches of "No, no."] He was speaking from personal recollection, and the hon. Member for East Mayo—who, he was sorry, was not present—said he was in favour of Irish whisky in preference to tea. These were two salient facts elicited in the discussion that night. Taking back the question to the common sense tone given to the discussion by the hon. Member for Hull, he wished in a few words to support the case he had made out for an abatement of the duty on a future occasion. Two years ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer could have reduced the duty, but this was not an occasion when he could be expected to do so. They might, however, advance arguments so that whenever it was possible the right hon. Gentleman might be induced to take advantage of the first opportunity to reduce the duty and give an indulgence to a commodity of vast consumption here, and thereby also encourage one of the few remaining large industries of India. His hon. friend had spoken on behalf of the planters, and shown that the tea industry was in a parlous condition. He could speak on behalf of the working class community whom he represented in the House, as well as for large classes of Indian labourers engaged in tea-growing. It was truly both an English and an Indian question, and one on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer should bestow as much attention as he could. India, as everyone knew, had suffered from famine during the last three or four years, from natural causes, beyond human control——[AN HON. MEMBER on the Irish Benches: From British government.] He absolutely denied any sense in that interruption. He did believe they were natural causes, and that the British Government had done everything in its power to meet and redress the sufferings of the people. On account of causes beyond human control, India had suffered immensely, and he was sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as a member of a Government which was inspired by a high sense of Imperialism, would not have retained the present high duty on tea if he could have helped it, but would have done all in his power to encourage an industry which supported a large portion of the population of India. The hon. Member for Hull had advocated the case of the Indian tea-planters on strong grounds. He approached the question more particularly from the point of view of the Indian labourer, millions of whom were dependent on the industry. Their very bread depended upon it, and anything that could be done to promote and develop that industry should, in the interests of the Indian labourer, have the indulgence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was exceedingly pleased to hear the right hon. Gentleman in his opening statement say that he would not think of increasing the duty on tea. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that the duty had reached a point at which it could not be further enhanced, and he gave, as was the general belief, a promise that in future years, when his financial needs were not so great as at present, he would seriously do what lay in him to reduce that duty. He trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would that night strengthen that belief by repeating his assurance. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he or his hon. friend the Member for Hull had no desire to go into the same lobby with the mover of the Amendment. The resolution before the Committee was one of purely Imperial wants, and should be considered and decided upon sound financial grounds. It was idle to expect that any sensible man would go into the lobby with hon. Members who wanted to reduce existing duties at the present moment when unusually large financial provision had to be made. But, at the proper time, justice should be done to a great industry of immense importance to the people of India, and which provided a necessary article of food for the people of this country. He believed that this was a health and temperance, besides being an economic question, for if tea could be had at cheaper rates than now, it would help the temperance cause and the working man's household. He could say from his own experience that it was harder in this country to get a cup of good tea than a glass of beer at railway stations and elsewhere. Tea should be freely placed at the disposal of the consumers who were at present induced for want of a good cup of tea to take to alcoholic drinks. He saw the hon. Member for East Mayo now present, and he would therefore repeat what he had said at the commencement of his speech that a couple of years ago that hon. Gentleman had declared that tea was an unhealthy and poisonous drink as compared with Irish whisky.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Yes, I recollect the occasion very well. What I said was that excessive tea-drinking was extremely unhealthy.

*SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: Yes, but the hon. Gentleman did not say that excessive whisky drinking was unhealthy.

MR. DILLON: I was speaking of tea, and not of whisky.

*SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: Yes, but you brought in the whisky. I distinctly remember that you brought in the whisky. I confess I was staggered, as I gave credit to the hon. Gentleman for being a strong believer in what he asserts, and for the moment I accepted his statement, however strange it might be. But I am greatly rejoiced to-night to hear a different version from the Irish Benches and so much said in praise of tea. All things considered, let us return to plain common sense on this question. We are not going into the lobby with the Irish Members, and I shall vote for the right hon. Gentleman's resolution in the firm belief and hope that in another year he will reduce the duty on tea.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that the hon. Member for North-East Bethnal Green would have shown both courage and consistency if, on this occasion, he had gone into the lobby to which his convictions would have carried him. Some years ago hon. Gentlemen who now sat on the Government side of the House, raised this question in the most extreme and effective form in which it possibly could be raised. Colonel Brookfield moved a resolution that this House was unwilling to sanction a Bill which involved the continuance for another year of the tax upon tea. The hon. Member was not only willing to move an Amendment to a resolution of this kind, but was perfectly prepared to throw out the Finance Bill altogether unless the tax upon tea were abolished altogether. And a very large number of hon. Gentleman—indeed the whole of the Conservative and Unionist party—voted, he believed, with that hon. Member. He would venture to suggest to the hon. Gentleman that this was an occasion on which he could exercise the virtue of consistency. The hon. Gentleman said that the difficulties of the Chancellor of the Exchequer were considerable this year, but that when better times came and when the Budget showed a surplus, he hoped the tea duties would be reduced. He wondered whether that time would ever come? Should they ever see it—any of them at present in the House? He would remind the House that at the time when there was a surplus he had brought forward a motion of this kind, and the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer might then have afforded to give way and made the concession. But the right hon. Gentleman had allowed that golden opportunity to pass by, and now they saw the poorer classes in this country, and the tea industry of India and Ceylon, burdened with a tax which amounted to 100 per cent. of the value of the article which the latter produced. Between 80 and 90 per cent. of the tea imports to this country came from India and Ceylon, and therefore he appealed on behalf of that great industry in India and Ceylon, as well as in behalf of the poor consumers of their tea in this country. There was a time when the poor consumer had the sympathy and attention of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He recollected the time when the hon. Member for North Islington gave the House some very interesting calculations which showed that the man who earned £1 a week paid 1s. 6d. in tea duty, the man who earned £2 a week paid

1s. 2d., the man who earned £3 paid 1s. 2½d., the man whose income was £10,000 a year paid 10d., and the man whose income was between £10,000 and £100,000 paid between 6d. and 7d. He admitted that the proportions since then had changed, but only to a very slight degree. There was another view that ought not to be disregarded, namely, the view of the working classes, who had been penalised in the past and were still penalised very largely in regard to taxation as compared with other classes of the community. He challenged the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who knew more about public finance than anyone in the House, to get up and say that the working men of this country in proportion to their income did not contribute a larger share to the State than any other class. If inquiry were made it would be found that they contributed a very much larger share, and hon. Gentlemen who had moved for the total abolition of the tax upon tea had done so upon that ground. He and those who thought with him were of opinion that at the present time, although the circumstances in which the right hon. Gentleman found himself were different from those of other years, they were justified in pressing for a reduction of 2d. in the pound. The right hon. Gentleman might reply that the fiscal obligations of the year were such that he could not give way upon this point, but if that reply were made, he would ask were there not certain doles and sops that had been given during the past few years to favoured classes and interests; to those whom the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India described as the "friends" of himself and his party. If those were now taken away, and instead of them a reduction of 2d. granted on an article of large and necessary consumption by the poor, he thought that would be a graceful act on the part of the right hon. Gentleman.

Major RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) thought the remarks as to doles and sops must have been directed to the agricultural grant, and therefore he thought it was only right that he should say a few words upon this subject. There was no doubt that tea-planters and merchants had in times gone by been making very considerable profits, whereas the people in the agricultural districts had to eke out a precarious existence by growing wheat at 40s. and selling it at 30s. Yet they made no complaint to the Chancellor or anybody else. Whenever an agricultural Member ventured to talk about finance, hon. Members generally thought he was going to advocate protection. He could, however, indicate certain sources of revenue by which the right hon. Gentleman could close the mouths of hon. Gentlemen with reference to tea, and also give some help to the agricultural interest. The agricultural interest were altruistic first and agricultural afterwards. What they desired was the greatest good of the greatest number. Nothing would induce him to put his hand on the ark of the covenant, or suggest a duty on wheat, or a registration duty on corn, any more than he would talk scandal about Queen Elizabeth or talk disrespectfully about the equator. But there were, for example, £90,000,000 worth of foreign manufactured goods which came into this country every year, one of which was called flour, which would bear a 2s. duty.

*The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is now travelling rather wide of the resolution before the Committee.

Major RASCH said under these circumstances he should not pursue the subject further, but would reserve his observations until a more favourable opportunity arose. He would be glad to see the duties on tea, sugar, and coal doubled, in order to get a reduction of the general taxation of the country

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.E.) said although the reduction of the duty upon tea was of very little consequence to the rich man, owing to the small quantity of tea which he used, it was very material to the poor, and when the constituents of the hon. Gentleman heard that he advocated doubling the tax they would be very much dissatisfied with the action of their representative. The hon and gallant Member was like other hon. Gentlemen who sat on his side of the House; although they frequently made speeches in favour of Amendments moved by the other side they were very seldom found voting in the same lobby. Some extraordinary figures had been put forward with regard to this tax. It seemed that Ireland paid no less than £900,000 in respect to the tax upon tea, and he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having regard to the poverty of that country, would be doing a gracious thing if he accepted the Amendment proposed and reduced the duty.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: My hon. friend the Member for Central Hull and the hon. Member for West Islington have approached this matter from the point of view of India and Ceylon, but I hope I have shown that I have not been wanting in sympathy with the tea interest there in what I have already said with reference to this subject. I am quite aware that the tea interest is a most important one, and that at present it is in anything but a satisfactory position; but I rather attribute that state of things to over-production than to increased taxation. My hon. friend compared the taxation of tea at 6d. per lb. with the taxation of cocoa and coffee, and he suggested that the tax on cocoa and coffee ought to be raised. But I would remind my hon. friend that when the taxation of tea was 6d. in the lb. the taxation of coffee and cocoa was the same as now, and that when the tax on tea was lowered, cocoa and coffee remained as they were. My hon. friend said that in his opinion the increased duty last year had been paid, not by the consumer in this country, but by the producer, and that the price of tea has not been increased on account of excessive production. I think there is a good deal of truth in those statements. I do not say that the extra duty of 2d. imposed last year has not been to some extent an increase of burden on Ireland, but my belief is that, owing to the reduced cost of the article, apart from the duty, although those who live in Ireland have had to bear a larger amount of the total sum raised from tea than before, they have had more tea for it. The increase of duty, therefore, has not been, to the full extent represented by hon. Members, a loss to Ireland. I confess that although I sympathise with the great industry of India and Ceylon, yet I think in dealing with this question we must first consider the interests of our own taxpayers. If I could reduce the tea duty I should be glad to do so, but to talk of a reduction this year is, to my mind, simply impossible. It has been suggested by hon. Gentlemen below the gangway that if we chose to abolish what are called doles—in other words, the grant under the Agricultural Rating Act to English tenant-farmers — we might devote the money to reduce the duty on tea. I think hon. Members opposite were a little ungrateful in this matter. That grant was made the reason, and I think a sound one, for giving them, under the Irish Local Government Act, a very large grant from the Imperial Exchequer for Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: That was for the landlords chiefly.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: No, No. Although I may not discuss the question now, I may make this one allusion to that fact, that the grant under the Agricultural Rating Act for England, was the beginning of that additional grant for Irish purposes from the Exchequer. I think hon. Members from Ireland have also rather forgotten what I am attempting to do this year. I have been obliged to suggest to Parliament the raising of a very considerable sum by additional taxation. I do not know whether they have ever given me credit for having some regard to the views of Irish Members on this matter, for some recollection that Ireland is a poor country compared with Great Britain, and some desire to do what is possible without entirely dislocating our system of taxation to be lenient to the Irish taxpayer. What have I done? Here again I can only allude to the matter without discussing it. In the scheme of taxation I have suggested I have included a tax not one penny of which can fall on Ireland—namely, the coal duty. What was my reward? Not only has there not been the faintest allusion to the exemption, but when the resolution was proposed imposing that duty, to a man hon. Members from Ireland were against it. Why?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Because it will raise the price of coal.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I have heard many objections to the duty, but I have not yet heard that it will raise the price of coal. But of course I must not elaborate that argument. My only reason for alluding to it at all was that I am anxious that hon. Members from Ireland should see that in my own proposals about taxation I am endeavouring not to impose upon them more burdens than is absolutely necessary, and that I have regard to the poverty of Ireland in the proposals which I make. I do not know that there is anything else to which I ought to allude except the point raised by the hon. Member for Leicester. In the course of the debate on this question last year, the hon. Member for Leicester suggested that an *ad valorem* duty would be much fairer to the poorer classes. The hon. Member for West Islington has answered the hon. Member for Leicester. He knows a good deal of the trade, and he knows very well—probably much better than I do—that more than half a century ago *ad valorem* duties on tea existed, and they were found to be such a nuisance, owing to the constant friction and quarrels between the Crown authorities on the one side and the merchants on the other, that they were abolished by unanimous consent. The hon. Member for Leicester has always advocated advanced opinions, but in this matter he is somewhat retrograde, for whatever the House of Commons may do with respect to taxation, I do not think it will revert to an *ad valorem* duty on tea again.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Not even on sugar either. The right hon. Gentleman's argument is just as applicable to sugar as to tea.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The duty on sugar is not an *ad valorem* duty. It is a duty of 4½ per cwt. on crystallisable sugar, whether that quantity of crystallisable sugar be contained in 1 cwt. of refined sugar, or in 2 cwts. of the lowest class of raw sugar, and that is the reason of our proposals with regard to sugar. I hope I have not by my remarks invited the Committee to discuss a matter which is beyond the scope of the resolution before it, and I trust that hon. Members, however in favour of a reduction of this duty they may be, will remember that the financial conditions of this year make the imposition of a sixpenny duty even more necessary than last year, and that, therefore, they will not support the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for East Clare.

MR. DILLON said he wished to allude to the points as regards Irish taxation which had been raised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He desired to say, as an Irish Nationalist Member, that the right hon. Gentleman was wrong in supposing that there was any man on those benches who had not appreciated the efforts he had made on one or two occasions to recognise the grievances of Ireland in regard to taxation. He, himself, had not forgotten the concession made in the tobacco tax, in deference to the protests made from the Irish Benches, and he recognised now in the coal duties an attempt to deal justly with Ireland, for undoubtedly the duty on exported coal was a duty calculated, so far as it went, to lighten the burden on Ireland; and if it were true that Irish Members opposed the coal duty, and would continue to oppose it, they did so, not because they regard it as unfair to Ireland, but because they had resisted, and intended to resist, all supply and taxes for carrying on a war they looked upon as iniquitous. That was the ground, and the only ground, on which he and his colleagues had opposed the coal duty. With regard to what the Chancellor of the Exchequer said about the agricultural grant, he desired to point out that though that grant was a large sum given to Ireland it was given in a most wasteful way, and one of the reasons why he objected to the general policy of the grant was that once a grant of that character was made it could not be revoked. He admitted that under the agricultural grant Ireland did better than England, but the Government so altered the distribution of the grant as regards Ireland, that out of the £728,000 allocated to that country about £500,000 went into the pockets of the Irish landlords, and so was lost for ever to the axpayers of this country.

He desired to refer to a most shocking attack made on him personally by the hon. Member for Bethnal Green, who declared that in this House he heard him (Mr. Dillon) some years ago advocating the copious use of Irish whisky, and saying it was more wholesome than tea. It was the first time he had been accused of preferring Irish whisky to tea. What he did say was that he preferred to see the tobacco tax reduced, because, first, it would relieve the taxpayers more, and, secondly, the excessive consumption of tea by the poorer classes was, in his judgment, an evil, for he believed it was detrimental to health. During this debate he had been anxious to raise his voice in support of the good old Liberal ideal of a free breakfast table. Nothing had surprised him more, and the surprise grew as the years rolled by, than the change that had come over the spirit of this House in respect to that ideal. When he first entered this House the great ideals of the Liberal party were peace, retrenchment, and economy, and at that time when a Minister dared to propose increased taxation he was sure to meet with the strongest opposition, even from his own supporters in the House. Not only had the ideal of the free breakfast table been forgotten, but economy also had been banished to be replaced by Imperialism. We were told the other day by the Member for Oldham that the English people might console themselves for the sugar tax by remembering that every lump of sugar they put into their tea was a shot fired at old Kruger; but he thought the taxpayers of England would soon tire of that amusement. Some hon. Members on the opposite side of the House deplored the tea tax, but said they recognised that it was now impossible to remove it, though they hoped there might be a prospect of doing so in the future. He would like to know how this prospect could arise with the ever-increasing, ever-swelling expenditure. This question was important, because Ireland was bound to these taxes as permanent, and this permanent taxation was entirely due to the disgusting, demoralising, and ruinous policy of Imperialism. When he first protested against this policy his voice was as the voice of one crying in the wilderness, but now he found that others outside those benches shared his views, and were alarmed by the enormous growth of the expenditure. He saw them walking about the lobbies with their pockets filled with letters and telegrams from their constituents clamouring against the increased income tax, the new sugar tax, and the coal duty. A patriotic poet wrote a poem some time ago, the refrain of which ,"Pay, pay, pay!" might well be plastered on the walls of this House. He held that as these taxes were permanent there should be some reasonable justification for them. And what was the justification put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer? In the speech he delivered when introducing the Budget, he said he believed that, as the working men of England were in favour of the war, they would not be unwilling to share in the burden of it. Was it true to say that the working men of England could be held to be responsible for the war? A large number of them were misled and deluded by the corrupt press of England, and we all knew how that press was influenced by the Stock Exchange and the wealthier classes. It was not true that the working classes were responsible for the war. In the Amendment he moved in the House in October, 1899, protesting against the war, he had the support of nearly the whole of the Labour Members. Since that time we had had the horrible scenes in the city arising out of the Mafeking relief and the return of the C.I.V.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is travelling rather wide of the resolution.

MR. DILLON maintained that those ought to pay for the war who made the war, and substantially speaking the people responsible were the payers of the income tax, and especially the larger payers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and his supporters had always asked—"If you object to our proposals, what is your alternative?" That question left the Irish Members untouched, because they had opposed the war from the beginning, and it was a grossly unjust thing to inflict any portion of the cost of this war on the people of Ireland, seeing that five-sixths of them had opposed it. But if he were asked his alternative, it would be to put the income tax up to 1s. 6d., and let the shipowners and mineowners and others who had made millions out of the war pay for it. Besides, that would really be the wiser course. In connection with this, the Irish Members were entitled to quarrel with the position of the Chancellor. This tax was really a war tax—a tax necessitated by the enormous yearly growth of the expenditure of this country What was the hon. Gentleman's attitude with regard to the expenditure? For four years the House had been listening to him in emphatic tones condemning the extravagance of the Government, and we heard the same thing a few days ago. On 16th May last† he drew an appalling picture of the steady annual increase. He pointed out the increase of £4,000,000 on the previous year, and said it was a real danger, which had gone on in spite of the efforts of himself and others. Well, he was a member of the Government, and responsible for what the Government did, especially for the finances. What, then, were they to think if the right hon. Gentleman were to go down to the country and condemn the finances of the Government to which he belonged?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: No.

MR. DILLON: Yes. Did he not say it was a danger to the country and was increasing in spite of his efforts? Was it not the business of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to see that some proper system of finance was followed? On what principle could the right hon. Gentleman remain a member of a Government which was increasing the annual expenditure to such an extent that he felt it his duty to go down to the country and say what he did say? The country was entitled to expect that in this Budget there should be some appearance of the influence of his views. It was mocking the country. If the finance of the Government was right, the right hon. Gentleman had no right to condemn it.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member does not know, though I think hon. Members will do me the justice to believe that what I say to this House and in the country I say to my colleagues. I have never denied, and I never should deny, my full responsibility for the expense incurred, but I do feel it my duty whenever I find a proper opportunity to point out to everyone—to the country at large—the danger of a great increase of expenditure.

MR. DILLON said his point was that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having year after year pointed out to the country and the House—he was not finding fault; on the contrary, many on that side of the House admired his courage—that this great growth of the ordinary national expenditure was a great danger, and found that his opinion was not followed, he was bound to do something more than that. But a strange development was taking place under their very eyes, and he would have to ask if this question, like the Catholic University question, was to be treated as an open question. The Leader of the House declared that he was in favour of the Catholic University, but said that it must be treated as an open question—a doctrine that was perfectly novel. It appeared to him that a like attitude had been arrived at with regard to this question of the financial policy of the country; in other words, that the responsibility of Ministers no longer existed. It appeared to him a most amazing and extraordinary doctrine, and it bore directly on the present tax, because he maintained that they were now engaged in considering a permanent tax. Hon. Gentlemen opposite talked about the opportunity which would arise in future years for reconsidering taxation, but if the present principle which governed finance were adhered to they would have to look forward, not to a reduction, but to an increase of taxation. He thought they had a right to complain, and to complain most bitterly, of the deception which had been practised on the House from the outset of the war with regard to the financial obligations to which they were being pledged. The taxation they were now considering was part of the whole system, and could not be considered apart from it, because were it not for the burden which had sprung directly from the war they might possibly have hoped for a reduction of taxation. But the House was being led on by a system of delusion into a swamp, in which they would soon find themselves up to their necks, and from which they would find it impossible to extricate themselves. Some of his hon. friends and himself had raised their voices in warning against the result which would follow from the outrageous policy of the Government with regard to finance, but they were laughed at, and the House persisted in taking a roseate view of the situation. One of the points regarding which they had specially complained was the persistent statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the greater part of the cost of the war would be recovered from the Transvaal.

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† Speech at Bristol.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That subject cannot be relevant to the question of the tea tax.

MR. DILLON said that it would appear to be relevant if he were heard to the end. [AN HON. MEMBER: Order, order!] Hon. Members who had just entered the House and knew nothing about the rules were always ready to call an hon. Member to order, who had at least had some experience. He was quite prepared to submit to the ruling of the Chair, but not to amateurs. To his mind, the gravity of the situation was that such was the financial condition of the country that they had no chance of reducing the tea duty unless the Committee decided to adopt the course he had suggested. It was impossible for him to argue the question of the tea duty properly without some reference to the general financial position. They were asked how they proposed to reduce the tea duty in view of the necessities of the war, and they would have to meet that by making some alternative proposal, and by generally discussing the way in which the country had been brought into its present condition. What he was about to say might perhaps be more relevant to the loan resolution.

*THE CHAIRMAN; That was the occasion on which the matter was discussed before, and on the Report stage of that resolution or on the Bill itself would be the proper time to raise the subject.

MR. DILLON said he would have an opportunity on the Report stage of the loan resolution to say what he had intended to say. He would only add that it was customary in dealing with Budget resolutions to discuss their general bearing. He would, however, accept the ruling of the Chair, and postpone the discussion.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid) said he rose merely for the purpose of asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a further explanation of one sentence he made use of when he spoke last. Before doing so he wished to identify himself with the remarks of the hon. Member for East Mayo. The Labour Members in the House of Commons, eight in number at least, were entirely against the war from its very inception. Their objection was strong, and was gathering strength. The Chancellor of the Exchequer prided himself on the fact that he was imposing a duty which pressed equally on all classes. He demurred entirely to that proposition. Equality was a relative term, and 2d. per pound on tea, in the case of two families, one having only an income of 10s. or 12s. a week, the other with an income of as many pounds a day as the other had shillings, would not be an equal tax, simply because a larger proportion of the burden would be borne by the poorer family. He decidedly objected to any indirect duties whatever being placed on the necessaries consumed by the working man and his family. The remark to which he specially desired to call attention was that none of the coal duty would fall on Ireland. The Chancellor of the Exchequer congratulated himself on the statement, and tried to conciliate the Irish Members by it. He did not represent any constituency in Ireland, but he was bound to say that he represented many thousands of Irishmen. He would ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer a question which might be considered hypothetical, but which would be found not to be hypothetical before the discussion on the coal duty was finished. The coalfields of the North of England, and especially of Durham——

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the hon. Member is about to discuss the coal tax.

Mr. JOHN WILSON: It is with reference to the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

***The CHAIRMAN**: The Chancellor of the Exchequer said what he did in reply to an observation from the other side of the House, and I cannot allow the discussion to continue.

***Sir M. HICKS BEACH**: If it will satisfy the hon. Member, I will be happy to withdraw what I said.

Mr. JOHN WILSON: I do not wish the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw his statement. I want merely to nail it to the counter if I can, as it will form a very important part of the objection of the working man to this coal duty.

***The CHAIRMAN**: I cannot permit a discussion on the coal tax. If the hon. Member will turn his attention to the question of tea he can discuss that.

Mr. JOHN WILSON: The Chancellor of the Exchequer was not called to order. He suggested——

***The CHAIRMAN**: I have already pointed out to the hon. Member that what the Chancellor of the Exchequer said was said in reply to an observation from the other side of the House. Obviously I could not prevent the Chancellor of the Exchequer from making that reply, but I cannot permit the discussion to continue.

Mr. JOHN WILSON: I was going to show the Chancellor of the Exchequer—

***The CHAIRMAN**: I cannot permit the discussion now. The hon. Member will have a further opportunity.

Mr. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne) said he desired to make it clear, while admitting that revenue must be raised in some way or other, why he objected to the particular form of raising it which was proposed. As long as the Government persisted in their determination to renew the various doles to which objection had already been taken, he would oppose every other form of taxation until that particular form was removed. If the doles which were now given were brought back into the Treasury there would be an available revenue of two or three millions sterling, but as long as they remained as they were he would be bound to oppose every other form of taxation. He had some experience of the lives of the poor in London and other cities. The poor bought tea in small quantities—in one-ounce, two-ounce, or four-ounce packets, and in every instance the paper was invariably weighed with the tea, and the poor paid the same duty on the paper as they did on the tea. In a shop in South London there was being sold tea at 1d. per ounce. Tea cost about 4d. per pound; the 6d. duty was added, and it was then sold at 14d. or 15d. per lb., and a far larger profit was obtained on the duty than on the tea itself. The objectionable feature of indirect taxation on articles of daily consumption was that profit was got on the duty as well as on the article itself. There was another reason why the tea duty was objectionable. When it was put on very strong protests were made by various classes of the community, which he thought demanded more consideration than had been given to them. The persons who took capital and enterprise into India and Ceylon developed the great tea industry, and an enormous amount of money was brought into the pockets of the tea planters in those dependencies. The price of Indian tea had fallen about 1½d. per pound in consequence of the imposition of the duty, and the depression which at present prevailed in the tea districts in India and Ceylon was largely due to that fall in price. The tea industry had been the greatest possible boon to the coolies and farm labourers in the tea districts. It was of far greater advantage than any other industry employing Indian labour, and if for no other reason than because hundreds and thousands of Indian peasants were employed on tea plantations, the duty on that article should be taken off. Tea was the one great luxury of the poor. It was the luxury they valued more than anything else. People talked about the drinking habits of the working classes, but if anyone went to a group of workmen employed away from home he would find six of their dinner cans containing tea to one containing beer. Therefore the tax manifestly pressed very hardly on the poor, and their case ought to meet with more sympathy from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Hon. Members had no right to object to any particular form of taxation unless they were prepared to suggest an alternative. The alternative he would suggest was that the grants that had been given to agriculture in various forms should be removed. When the Agricultural Rating Act came up for revision, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would take the bull by the horns and drop the Act he would be able to reduce the tea duty by 2d. and earn the gratitude of the country.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that when he moved his Amendment he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he would be good enough to make arrangements that in future, when they were discussing the Budget resolutions, figures with reference to the previous year should be laid before the House, so that hon. Members might be better able to judge of the proposals of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman was good enough to say that he thought the request a reasonable one. It would be satisfactory if the right hon. Gentleman would go a little further, and give a promise that before the Second Reading of the Finance Bill a Return dealing with, at least, Ireland should be placed in the hands of Members. Before the tea tax was finally passed Members should be in a position thoroughly to understand how much this additional tax realised in Ireland. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that he estimated £875,000 were raised last year in Ireland from tea. No doubt those figures were accurate.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH pointed out that the sum he gave was not the actual, but an estimated amount, and therefore he could not guarantee its accuracy.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that made it all the more necessary that his demand should be acceded to, as Members were entitled to have figures showing exactly how this tax had operated during the year. He therefore desired to press two points upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer—first, that for the future arrangements should be made by which before the Budget discussion the figures up to 31st March each year should be in the hands of Members, and secondly, and particularly, that he would, if possible, by a little extra labour on the part of the officials, enable the Irish Members before the Second Reading of the Finance Bill to know exactly how this tax had affected their constituents.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH was understood to say that he had already promised to do what he could to supply the figures asked for, but he reminded hon. Members that the tea and other duties would be before the House after the Second Reading of the Bill. It had also to be remembered that these Returns must give the same information from one year to another, in order to give the necessary comparisons. It was desirable that the figures given for last year should be absolutely accurate and not merely estimated, so that Members should be in possession of the actual facts.

MR. LOUGH urged that it would be better to have a bad return than no return at all. A really practical discussion of Irish finance could not be had without these figures. The figures of a year ago could be given, but of what interest were they in regard to these taxes? The Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted that an extra £900,000 was put on Ireland last year. That was the most serious thing in regard to taxation which had happened to Ireland since 1801; and yet, when hon. Members asked to know the facts and figures before discussing proposals to impose a further large sum, there was a difficulty about getting such a statement. If the right hon. Gentleman would supply the information before the Committee stage commenced, it would go a long way towards serving the purpose. Even though some slight estimate had to be made to get the return through, the figures would be quite near enough.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 221; Noes, 140. (Division List No. 146.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn, (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Ev'ns-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Gretton, John
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col, W. (Salop
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt. Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt Jasper (Shropshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn John (Montrose
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas, David Alfred (Merth'r
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks. E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (CorkN.E.
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caine William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir A. D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse,C.E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, W.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(T'pper'ryMid
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfriessh.)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt HnCR(Northants.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J A(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick(Meath,North)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Original Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 221; Noes, 130. (Division List No. 147.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry,SirFrancis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,T.Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C. W(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwichr
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J Austen(Worc')
Charrington, Spencer Spencer
Churchill, Winston Leigh
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T .L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale,Sir JosephCockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,Sir WilliamTheodore
Duncan, J. Hastings
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Dyke,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rHmlets
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHn.Ld.G(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'donderry
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath,James(Staffords,N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge,RobertTrotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hope,J.F.(Sheffi'ld,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (Kent,Faversh.
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder,Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W.(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont,Col,J.(Antrim,E.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W. J. H. (Dumfries.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. J. (Shropshire)
Morley, Rt. Hon. J.(Montrose
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. SamuelAlexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb, ColonelWilliamGeorge
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Allen,CharlesP.(Glouc.Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar,JohnA.(Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
Evans,Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K.(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James

Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,Sir R.Threshie (Dumfries
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas,Alfred (Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J A(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Whiteley,Geooge(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Hudd'fi'ld
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

Tellers for the Noes—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Resolved, "That the Customs duty now charged on tea shall continue to be charged until the first day of August nineteen hundred and two, that is to say, Tea, the pound sixpence."

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF CUSTOMS.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the additional duties of customs on tobacco, beer, and spirits imposed by sections two, three, four, and five of the Finance Act, 1900 (includin gany increased duties imposed by section five of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August nineteen hundred and two."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. DALY (Monaghan, S.) asked if he would be in order in moving a reduction of these duties.

*The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Gentleman will bring up the form of his Amendment I will decide upon it.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND contended that the increase put upon tobacco last year should be removed, and that the tax should remain as it was before. He always objected to increases in the duties on these articles because they did not fall proportionately upon the different classes of the community. He thought the extra tax imposed upon imported cigars was altogether too little, and the tax upon ordinary tobacco was a great deal too much. He had not the slightest objection to putting as heavy a tax as they pleased on expensive imported cigars, but he strongly objected to an additional tax being put upon the ordinary tobacco so much used by the masses of the people. It appeared to him that in this matter the Government were acting in accordance with the general policy which they had laid down of making the taxation fall as heavily as possible upon the poorer members of the community and as little as possible upon the richer classes. When he stated last year that a man who could afford to pay 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. 6d., for a cigar, which lasted him perhaps for five or ten minutes, should be called upon to pay a much heavier tax, he was jeered at by hon. Members opposite, and he was told that it was a monstrous thing to say that gentlemen paid 1s. or 2s. for a cigar. He had taken the trouble to inquire into the matter. As a member of the Kitchen Committee he had ascertained that the most popular cigar in that House was a 1s. cigar. If they were to impose taxation in order to meet the expenses of the South African war, it should be made to fall upon the gentlemen who could afford to pay 1s., or 1s. 6d., or 2s. for a cigar, and not upon the tobacco used by the working men of the country. He proposed to add at the end of the resolution the following words: "Except that Ireland be exempted from the tax upon tobacco." He thought he was perfectly justified in doing that, because they ought to take every opportunity afforded them of protesting against any imposition of taxation to meet the expenses of the war. He protested against any taxation being put on Ireland for this war, and had he not taken the course which he had pursued upon this resolution he would not have been doing his duty. It appeared to him a most outrageous thing that the Irish people should have to pay more for their tobacco because the Government thought fit to go to war, and plunge the Empire into the disaster and sacrifice which it had made during the last year and a half. It would have been some consolation perhaps if, in reimposing this duty upon tobacco, the Government could say that they had brought the war to a conclusion, that they were in smooth water, and in sight of the day when the tax would be taken off. Nothing of that kind could be put forward at the present time, and they were in a great deal worse position in South Africa now than at the commencement of the war. The hon. Member for Oldham would be able to tell his constituents that every time they smoked a half-ounce of tobacco they would be firing a shot at Mr. Kruger. After reading that speech he came to the conclusion never to take a lump of sugar again, and he would have resolved as long as this additional tax was put upon tobacco to abstain from tobacco also, but he felt that he should not have been equal to it. In October, 1899, he protested against this war, and upon every occasion since he had opposed the fresh taxation which was necessary to carry on the war. Therefore, in moving the resolution to exempt Ireland from this tax, he was only following out consistently the course which he had commenced at the beginning of the war.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words 'except that Ireland be exempted from the tax on tobacco.'"—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. DALY thought that after the able manner in which his hon. friend had placed this question before the House the right hon. Gentleman would have no difficulty in accepting this Amendment. He thought his hon. friend had made out a very strong case for increasing the tax on cigars used by the swells. He wished to remind the Committee that the Local Government Board in Ireland were now compelling the boards of guardians to allow tobacco to the inmates, and Ireland would be affected to a considerable extent if the increase in the duty on tobacco was persisted in. He was sure there was no hon. Member on the Opposition side of the House who would have the slightest objection to whatever tax the right hon. Gentleman put upon fancy tobacco and cigars. He respectfully asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to accept the Amendment which had been so ably proposed by the Member for East Clare.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said it appeared to him that the House was entitled to more information with regard to the way the resolutions had been brought forward. They were simply put from the Chair, and Members were not afforded any opportunity of considering them beforehand, and preparing Amendments. He trusted that some arrangement would be come to by which Members would have an opportunity of considering what Amendments they wished to bring forward. As far as Ireland was concerned he wished to protest against any increase of taxation of any kind upon any pretext whatsoever. Ireland was already overtaxed, and they had already given very good reasons why this tax should be reduced. He entirely agreed with what the hon. Member for East Clare had said. If any change should be made, he would suggest that the tax on cigars should be increased, and the tax on tobacco decreased. The system of taxation which prevailed in this country was mainly to put taxes on the articles most used by the poor, and decrease the taxes on the articles used by the rich. The Irish people did not desire to contribute anything in support of a war to which they were entirely opposed, and he believed that the burden of taxation about to be imposed by this Budget to meet the expenditure of the war was almost more than the people of the three kingdoms could bear. He thought that it would not be difficult to get a large number of people in Ireland to strike against the payment of Imperial taxation, which was about the only way in which they could bring home to this House the hardship of the grievance which they felt in Ireland.

***Sir M. HICKS BEACH**: As far as I understand the arguments of hon. Members opposite, there are two points taken by them—first, that cigars are not sufficiently taxed; and, secondly, that raw tobacco is taxed too highly. I will remind hon. Gentlemen that two years ago I reduced the duty on raw tobacco by 6d., while I did not reduce the duty on cigars; and when last year the duty on tobacco was increased by 4d. I put 6d. upon the duty on cigars. Therefore *pro tanto* cigars are more highly taxed in comparison with tobacco than they formerly were. But the objection of hon. Gentlemen goes further. The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down has stated his objection to perpetuating the existing taxation in Ireland. It is practically impossible to accede to the wishes of hon. Gentlemen in that respect. We could not have two rates of duty on tobacco in England and Ireland without having separate Customs Houses, and it would involve a total change in our fiscal system. I think that in the end that would be far worse to Ireland than an increase of taxation. I hope we shall now divide upon the motion.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that the right hon. Gentleman, when this matter was being discussed last year, was good enough to hold out to them the hope that he would take steps to remove the restrictions prohibiting the growing of tobacco in Ireland. He wished to ask whether that statement held good now, and whether the experiments in the growing of tobacco in Ireland, which were being made by the new Board of Agriculture, were likely to be successful.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: If recommendations are made to me by the Board of Agriculture in Ireland, and if it can be done without dislocating the system, I will favourably consider the matter.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 56; Noes, 278. (Division List No. 148.)

AYES.

Abraham, William(Cork,N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Jameson, Mayor J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (T'pp'rary Mid
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thompson, E C (Monaghan, N.)
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ailhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Channing, Francis Allston
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cranborne, Viscount
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duncan, J. Hastings
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William

Fuller, J. M. F.
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gladstone,Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml's
Gorst,Rt.Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesb'ry
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene,W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'donderry
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Hayter,Rt.Hon.Sir Arthur D.
Heath,James(Staffords.,N.W.
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol,E.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brights'de
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, A H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Calmont, Col. J.(Antrim,E.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Makham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison.James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Bonald Ninian
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley,Hon.M.W(Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col.Samuel Alexander
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone,W.)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F D.(Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,RtHnCR.(Northants)
Stanley,Hn.Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Strachey, Edward
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thomas,FFreeman-(Hastings
Thomas,JA(Glamorg'n,Gow'r
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Vicount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney
Webb, Colonel WillamGeorge
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hon.E.R(Bath
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Hudd'sf'd
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said his hon. friend had spoken of some of the taxation not being according to the spirit of the constitution. He was going to say a few words on a spirit that was ruinous to the constitution. He had on former occasions called the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the large amount of spirits that were brought into this country year by year. He had shown the right hon. Gentleman how they were manufactured; he had even shown him the patents for producing spirits which were most deleterious to the health of the people. They were imported year by year in increasing quantities. The figures for the last three years for which he had been able to obtain statistics were: 1898, 1,611,060 gallons; 1897, 1,679,831 gallons; and 1896, 1,609,428 gallons. As a matter of fact, he believed that of the whole 1,679,831 gallons only 8,000 were made into methylated spirits. The remainder went into consumption as Scotch and Irish whisky. It was putting a premium on fraud to allow that spirit to come into this country. He had written to the right hon. Gentleman asking him to allow a different coloured permit to be given, so that the Government might be able to trace how this spirit was used; but the right hon. Gentleman did not see it in the same way. Perhaps he thought that probably it would reduce the sale of that spirit, and that the taxes would suffer. He was perfectly sure there would be an enormous reduction in the death rate if that spirit was not allowed to be sold. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give some indication that he would put a prohibitive tax on this spirit, a great part of which was made in Germany out of shavings and sawdust, with the help of sulphuric acid. Even for the benefit of taxation he would decline to allow the health of the country to be ruined by allowing that spirit to be put into circulation. A spirit not quite so bad as this, but still not good, was made in Scotland from molasses, which was to be charged the additional sugar duty. Therefore the foreign spirit would be more favoured than the Scotch spirit, and the right hon. Gentleman would be knocking an industry out in this country in favour of the Germans, the Danish, the Swedes, and the Russians. He asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to put an extra tax on this foreign spirit, and the similar spirit made from molasses would not be interfered with. Look how the Germans taxed all foreign wines and spirits—four times the amount that we did. It was far better that the tax should come out of the pockets of foreigners than out of our own. He really hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would take those two points into his serious consideration.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member has communicated with me on this subject several times. I may mention that I do not think that his estimate of the amount of foreign spirit mixed with our home production in the way he describes is correct. The amount imported is small compared with the total amount of spirits produced in this country, and is used, not for the purposes of methylated spirit, but in various manufactures. Besides, if the mixture takes place at all, it takes place out of bond, where the Inland Revenue cannot follow it. What the hon. Member desires is that this spirit coming from abroad should be more heavily taxed. This resolution taxes it more heavily than before. The hon. Member says that the duty on molasses will interfere with the home manufacture. I think he is mistaken. The molasses will be sent in bond to the distillers, and will not pay duty, and the distillers will be no more heavily taxed than at present. I have been in communication with them, and I have no doubt we will be able to make arrangements which will be entirely satisfactory as to their position in the future.

MAJOR JAMESON said that the right hon. Gentleman insisted that there was not a large quantity of the foreign spirit brought into consumption, that the Excise could not account for it, and that it was not mixed in bond. He maintained that the mixing was done in bond, and what was not used for mixing with whisky was used for fortifying wine. If the right hon. Gentleman said he was wrong, why did he not grant a different coloured permit, so that they might be able to know how that foreign spirit was used, and where it was used. He was sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer was anxious that this fraud should not be perpetrated; and if he gave a different coloured permit, the right hon. Gentleman would be able to prove that he was wrong, or to prove that more than three-fourths of that large amount of foreign spirit went into consumption. (Laughter.) It might not matter to those hon. Gentlemen who laughed, who probably drank it, but they would, before long, be paying death duties.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: If the hon. and gallant Member can prove to me that a different coloured permit will enable us to trace this deleterious spirit better than we can at present, then I quite agree that it should be given. But he has not been able to prove that yet.

However, I shall be glad to receive any further information on the subject.

Major JAMESON thanked the right hon. Gentleman for his courtesy.

Mr. FLYNN said if the right hon. Gentleman made inquiry he would find that large quantities of this spirit came from Hamburg, and could be traced to Scotland and Ireland, where it was mixed with Highland malt whisky and Irish whisky, and afterwards exported as pure Highland and Irish whisky. There could be no doubt that a large amount of the deplorable intoxication which followed the use of this so-called malt whisky was owing to the large importation of this deleterious spirit. It was made from potatoes, damaged grain, rice, and other inferior products, and the result was that it was most injurious to the health of those who consumed it. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman of the fact that four or five years ago a report was issued by the whisky trade in Belfast in which it was pointed out that a sum of close upon a million sterling was paid on imported spirit. What did that mean? It meant that a vast portion of it was mixed with some kind of home spirits in Belfast and neighbourhood. Some of it was sold in Ireland, but the rest was exported to this country, and sold by the retailers as Irish whisky, and that was a grievance to the Irish distillers. It was deadly in its effects in this country. A large amount of the intoxication and semi-lunacy in this country was owing to the free manner in which Irish whisky was mixed with this foreign spirit. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would instruct the Customs and Excise to look into the matter, and formulate a scheme which would have the effect of modifying the deplorable results which, from every point of view, followed the consumption of these mixtures.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the additional duties of Customs on tobacco, beer, and spirits imposed by sections two, three, four and five of the Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased duties imposed by Section 5 of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and two.

Continuance of Additional Duty of Excise on Beer.

3. Motion made, and Amendment proposed—"That the additional duties of Excise on beer imposed by Section 6 of the Finance Act, 1900, shall continue to be charged until the first day of August nineteen hundred and two."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said there was no disposition on the Irish Benches to raise any opposition, from a purely Irish point of view, to the increased duty on beer. But there was one resolution which affected Ireland, which they desired seriously to discuss, and that was the tax on spirits. The addition to that tax last year amounted to something like a million, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that it was a temporary impost, and would only last one year. It was now proposed to renew the whisky tax, which hon. Members from Ireland believed pressed unfairly on that country, and he would suggest that the discussion on the tax should be postponed until Monday, and that the remaining resolutions should be passed to-night.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH said that that was a fair proposal on the part of the hon. Member. If the Committee would be good enough to pass the other resolutions he thought the spirit resolution might be postponed until Monday.

Question put, and agreed to.

Glucose and Saccharin (Excise).

4. Resolved, "That there shall be charged on and after the first day of July, nineteen hundred and one, on glucose and saccharin (including substances of a like nature or use), Excise duties equivalent to the Customs duties charged on those articles.

And that there shall be charged, on and after the same date, on a licence to be taken out annually by the manufacturer of glucose, invert sugar, or saccharin, an Excise duty of one pound."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Amendment of Law.

5. Resolved, "That it is expedient to prolong the term of certain annuities and to amend the law relating to the National Debt, the Customs, and the Inland Revenue."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again this day.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 26th April, 1901.

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.

Petition of Charles Botolph Joseph, Lord Mowbray, Lord Seagrave, and Baron and Lord Stourton of Stourton, in the county of Wilts, praying that the petition of Henry Duke of Norfolk, presented to this House on the 25th day of February last, be not considered until after he has lodged a printed case disclosing the grounds upon which he claims to be heard in opposition to the Petitioner, and the evidences by which he proposes to substantiate his claim to be Earl of Norfolk under the alleged creation of 1664, and by which he proposes to show that any connection exists between the Earldom of Norfolk, created in 1312 in favour of Thomas Brotherton and his heirs, and the Earldom alleged to have been created in 1644 in favour of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, and his heirs male; read, and referred to the Committee of Privileges.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Marquess of Breadalbane took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with—

Neath Harbour.

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Barry Railway Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for a Bill by James Godman Rodgers ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for additional Provision in the South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional Provision.

Read, and agreed to.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE BILL [H.L.].

NITRATE RAILWAYS COMPANY BILL [H.L.].

ALBION STEAM COAL COMPANY BILL [H.L.].

OTLEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

BETHLEM HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.]

CHESTER GAS BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

WARKWORTH HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 12th and 28th of March last discharged; and Bill committed for Monday next.

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

SOUTH ESSEX WATER BILL [H.L.]

CARDIFF RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

TYNESIDE TRAMWAYS AND TRAMROADS BILL [H.L.].

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

BIRMINGHAM (CITY) TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WIGAN CORPORATION TRAMWAYS, ETC. BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WATFORD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WORCESTER TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz. :—

L. Ribblesdale (chairman),
L. Abinger,
L. Carew,
L. De Mauley,
L. Ludlow ;

agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly : The Committee to meet on Wednesday next at Eleven of the clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

LEATHERHEAD GAS BILL.

PETERSFIELD AND SELSEY GAS BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1*a*, and referred to the Examiners.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (ACTON) BILL [H.L.].

Referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

The Proceedings of yesterday relating to the presentation (by Command) of the following Papers, viz. :—

1. Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school ;
2. Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes :

Ordered to be vacated.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).

Twenty-third Annual Report of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, being the Sixty-second Annual Report on Prisons in Scotland.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2577. Netherlands (Amsterdam) ;
No. 2578. Russia (Poland and Lithuania) ;
No. 2579. Finances of the Netherlands for the year 1900–1901 ;
No. 2580. Brazil (Pará) ;
No. 2581. United States (New York and District) ;
No. 2582. France (Calais and District).

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. General Reports for the year 1900—
  1. Eastern Division, by W. E. Currey, Esquire, Chief Inspector ;
  2. North Central Division, by J. G. Fitzmaurice, Esquire, Chief Inspector
  3. North-Eastern Division, by W. P. Turnbull, Esquire, Chief Inspector ;
  4. South-Western Division, by J. A. Willis, Esquire, Chief Inspector ;

II. Training Colleges, Reports for the year 1900, by—
  1. A. Rankine, Esquire, on the Training Colleges for Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses ;
  2. The Honourable Mrs. Colborne, on needlework in the training colleges for schoolmistresses ;
  3. Sir John Stainer, on music in the training colleges for schoolmasters and schoolmistresses.

III. Statistics of public elementary day schools, evening continuation schools, and certified efficient schools : for the year ended 31st August, 1900.

ARMY.

I. (Medical Department.) Report for the year 1899. Volume XLI.

II. Report, by Lieut.-General Sir H. E. Colvile, K.C.M.G., C.B., on the operations of the Ninth Division at Paardeberg.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

I. Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school;

II. Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes;

III. Return showing the expenditure from the grant for public education in Scotland in the year 1900 upon annual grants to State-aided schools; the number of schools; and the results of inspection and examination during the year ended 30th September, 1900.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883 (PROCEEDINGS).

Account showing the receipts and expenditure on account of bankruptcy proceedings during the year ended 31st March, 1901.

COMPANIES WINDING-UP ACT, 1890.

Account showing receipts and expenditure on account of proceedings under the Companies Winding-up Act, 1890, during the year ended 31st March, 1901.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.

Treasury minute, dated 22nd April, 1901, under the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, directing that the fees and other cash receipts which have hitherto been paid into the Exchequer as extra receipts in connection with the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland's Office, shall, as from the 1st April, 1901, be treated as appropriations in aid of the money provided by Parliament under that Vote.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES AND FEVER HOSPITALS (IRELAND).

LORD MONTEAGLE OF BRANDON: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether any non-clinical hospitals in Ireland have been recognised by the Local Government Board for Ireland as competent to train probationer nurses in accordance with the terms of their Circular of the 12th January, 1899, and, if so, which? And whether any workhouse hospitals in Ireland not so recognised fulfil the necessary conditions as laid down in that Circular as regards the number of beds and the medical and nursing staff, and, if so, which? I also beg to move the motion standing in my name.

Moved, for a Return showing for each union in Ireland:—

1. The number of beds in workhouse infirmary and fever hospital.

2. The number of patients on 1st January last, or other given day.

3. The number of "trained nurses" as defined by the circular letter of the Local Government for Ireland, No. 4 M./99, Miscellaneous, of 12th January, 1899.

4. The number of nurses other than those "trained" as defined above.

5. The number of paid attendants employed in accordance with the provisions of the Nursing Order, No. 78 M./97, of the 11th September, 1897.

6. The number of pauper inmates employed under Article II. of the last named Order.—(*Lord Monteagle of Brandon.*)

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: The Government are prepared to grant this Return, but in order to make it more complete they would suggest that particulars as to the emoluments of trained and untrained nurses should also be given. It is to be observed that no "paid attendants," as distinguished from nurses, have been employed under the Nursing Order of 1897, as the Order does not provide for the employment of attendants. The number of "paid attendants" in workhouses can, however, be given, and if this is what the noble Lord desires, the information will be supplied, and an explanatory footnote added to the Return. The Belfast Union Workhouse Infirmary, including the fever hospital, has been recognised by the Local Government Board as an hospital where probationer nurses can be trained in accordance with the terms of their Circular of the 12th January, 1899. Negotiations are in progress for establishing training schools for nurses in Cork, Limerick, and Galway, and it is hoped that such projects may be carried out. As regards the last paragraph of the question, with the exception of the Dublin workhouses no others possess the necessary requirements for imparting a full course of training, but other workhouses are putting forth schemes for giving a less complete course of training, and the nurses so trained under schemes approved by the Local Government Board would be recognised as competent to undertake nursing duties in poor law infirmaries or hospitals, though they would not be regarded as fully trained for the purposes of Section 58 (2) (a) (ii) of the Local Government Act, 1898. Such a scheme has already been approved of at Clonmel Union Infirmary.

Lord MONTEAGLE of BRANDON: I beg to add to my motion, as suggested by the noble Lord, a request for particulars as to the emoluments of trained and untrained nurses.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Ordered to be laid before the House Return showing for each union in Ireland :—

1. The number of beds in workhouse infirmary and fever hospital.

2. The number of patients on 1st January last, or other given day.

3. The number and emoluments of "trained nurses" as defined by the circular letter of the Local Government for Ireland, No. 4 M./99, Miscellaneous, of 12th January, 1899.

4. The number and emoluments of nurses other than those "trained" as defined above.

5. The number of paid attendants with their emolument employed in accordance with the provisions of the Nursing Order, No. 78 M./97, of the 11th September, 1897.

6. The number of pauper inmates employed under Article II. of the last named Order.

The Earl of Denbigh.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; Read 1*a*; Then (Standing Order No. XXXIX. having been suspended) Bill read 2*a* (The Lord Raglan); Committee negatived; Bill read 3*a*, and passed.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock to Monday next at quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 26th April, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

London County Council (Money) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

ARLESEY GAS BILL [Lords].

LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS (NEW WORKS) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS (IRELAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate and confer powers for the supply of water upon the Oakham Water Company." Oakham Water Bill [Lords].

And also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Urban District Council of King's Norton and Northfield to construct tramways and to make provision in regard to tramways in and in the neighbourhood of the said district; and for other purposes." King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [Lords].

OAKHAM WATER BILL [Lords].

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

Read the first time, and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Cheltenham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

COAL.

Petition from Hartlepool, against proposed Customs Export Duty; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Woolley and Wharncliffe Woodmoor Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Mold and Macclesfield; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Guisborough (two); Chiswick; Marston Sicca; Wallingford; Stratford-on-Avon; Crowmarsh, and Brentford; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against, from Stockton-on-Tees, and Tamworth; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Hendreforgan; Dunvant; Wharncliffe Woodmoor; and Woolley Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment, from Stirling; Paisley; Perth; and Greenock; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Salisbury (two); Trunch; Hexham; Peterborough (two); Sutton; and Queensbury; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions against, from Wakefield; Gloucester; Shrewsbury; Warrington; and North-West Wilts; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Nottingham; Dartmouth (two); Sheffield (two); Hornsey; Birmingham; Gainsborough; Glasgow (two); Hamilton; St. Asaph; West Tanfield; and Barnsley; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Hawick, against; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Lecroft; Urr; Dundee; Kirkcudbright; Kilninian and Kilmore; Falkirk; Garmouth; and Forres; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petitions against, from Whitley Bay; Akeley; and Alderford; to lie upon the Table.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dundee, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ULTIMUS HÆRES (SCOTLAND) (ACCOUNT AND LIST OF ESTATES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th April; *Mr. Austen Chamberlain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 137.]

BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883 (PROCEEDINGS).

Account presented, showing the Receipts and Expenditure on account of Bankruptcy Proceedings during the year ended 31st March 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 138.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd April, 1901, under The Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891, directing that the Fees and other Cash Receipts which have hitherto been paid into the Exchequer as extra Receipts, in connection with the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland's Office, shall, as from the 1st April, 1901, be treated as appropriations in aid of the money provided by Parliament under that Vote [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th April; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 139.]

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Return showing the expenditure from the Grant for Public Education in Scotland in the year 1900 upon Annual Grants to State-aided Schools; the number of Schools; and the results of Inspection and Examination during the year ended 30th September 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Twenty-third Annual Report of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, being the Sixty-second Annual Report on Prisons in Scotland, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (CONTINUATION CLASSES).

Copy presented, of (1) Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further instruction for those who have left school; (2) Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND (TECHNICAL EDUCATION).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th June 1900; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 140.]

BOARD OF EDUCATION (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented, of General Report for the year 1900 by the Chief Inspectors of the Eastern Division, North-Eastern Division, South-Western Division, and the North Central Division [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (TRAINING COLLEGES).

Copy presented, of Reports relating to Training Colleges for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, ETC.).

Copy presented, of Statistics of Public Elementary Schols, Evening Continuation Schools, and Certified Efficient Schools for the year ended 31st August, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the month of December 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2579 to 2582 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NEW WRIT.

MONMOUTH BOROUGHS.

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new Writ for the electing of a Member to serve in this present Parliament for the Monmouth Boroughs, in the room of Frederick Rutherfoord Harris, esquire, whose election has been declared void.—(*Sir William Walrond*).

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE ANNEXED REPUBLICS.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he expects to be able to set on foot a scheme of civil administration in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies during Sir Alfred Milner's absence from South Africa, and can he state who will take Sir Alfred's place during his absence.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): It is not proposed to inaugurate a full scheme of civil administration in Sir Alfred Milner's absence, which is expected to be of short duration, but the work of organising the several departments will proceed as far as possible on the lines which he has been laying down. Lord Kitchener will take Sir Alfred Milner's place in virtue of the terms of the Commissions published in the last South African Bluebook, Cd. 547, pp. 6 and 7.

JAMESON RAID—POSITION OF CHARTERED COMPANY.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will undertake not to say or do anything gratuitously which might prejudice the claim of the late Transvaal Government against the Chartered Company being recovered and applied in liquidation of the debts of the Transvaal Government when a change in His Majesty's Advisers takes place.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of anything which I can say or do, either gratuitously or otherwise, which would interfere with the action of any succeeding Government in this matter.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will give facilities for the examination at the Colonial Office of all Papers connected with the Jameson Raid bearing upon the claim of the late Transvaal Government, in view of the probability of a tender being made, as suggested, for any rights the British Government may have against the Chartered Company.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: All the material Papers on this subject have been published, and will be found in the Parliamentary Paper, C 9,343.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman give me access to the necessary special Papers in order that I may not buy a pig in a poke?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know what would be necessary for the hon. Member.

BOER PRISONERS—INTERNMENT IN INDIA—PROPOSED INTERNMENT IN IRELAND.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that Ahmednagar, the place to which 500 Boer prisoners have recently been sent, is unhealthy and in every respect unsuitable as a place of imprisonment for men coming from such a climate as that of South Africa; and whether he will consider the desirability of transferring these prisoners to some more suitable place, and whether he will consider the desirability of sending Boer prisoners in the future to Ireland.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a batch of Boer prisoners of about 500 has been deported to Ahmednagar, in the Bombay Presidency; and, if so, having regard to the heat of this locality and to its scanty water supply, will the Government consider the propriety of removing these prisoners of war to some less unhealthy place.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the arrival of 500 Boer prisoners of war at Bombay, and their despatch to Ahmednagar; and, seeing that the Ahmednagar district was last year so famine stricken that one in every four of the population was on Government relief, and was also subject to a water famine, and that these conditions still to some extent prevail in the district, which is liable to cholera, plague, and other

Oriental diseases, whether he will consider the advisability of interning these prisoners of war in a more suitable district.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will make inquiry as to the suitability of the climate of Ahmednagar, in India, to which place the first batch of Boer prisoners are said to have been consigned, at this season and during the summer months, for men not acclimatised to the heat of the district indicated, in order to prevent undue suffering and perhaps undue mortality.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The Viceroy of India undertook, after consultation with the local authorities, to send the Boer prisoners to suitable places, and Ahmednagar has been selected as one of them. A British regiment is permanently quartered there, and I never before heard that the place is considered to be unhealthy.

MR. DILLON: I should like to ask the Colonial Secretary to answer the second paragraph of my question.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have nothing to do with the disposition of the prisoners.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman say who is in control of that matter?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Secretary of State for War.

MR. DILLON: I will put the question to him to-morrow.

SIR H. DE VILLIERS' LETTERS

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the right hon. Sir J. H. De Villiers, Chief Justice of Cape Colony, alone consented to the publication in a Blue book of his letters written before the outbreak of the Transvaal War; if at the same time the Colonial Secretary would publish the correspondence of the Chief Justice with Sir Alfred Milner; if that condition was made by the Chief Justice, can he explain why it was neglected by the Colonial Secretary, and will he now publish the correspondence referred to between Sir J. H. De Villiers and Sir Alfred Milner.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Sir J. H. De Villiers made no such condition, and I do not propose to lay any further Papers on the subject.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Did he make any statement that he wished his correspondence with Sir Alfred Milner to be published also? Did he, or did he not?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member asks one question in definite terms, and places it on the Paper. When I give him an answer, he asks a totally different question. Let the hon. Member put his question on the Paper.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will do so for Monday.

TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA—STATISTICAL RETURN.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay upon the Table a further Return, in continuation of the former Return, as to the number of troops now under arms in South Africa, with the other particulars as to the troops invalided, returned, wounded, dead, and in hospital.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Yes, Sir.

FARMS BURNED BY BOERS.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet received the information as to the number of farms burned by the Boers in Cape Colony for which he promised to cable.

MR. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir; it is now being printed.

LINDLEY DISASTER—GENERAL COLVILE AND COLONEL SPRAGGE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any, and if so, what, explanation of the circumstance that Lord Roberts's published despatch giving an account of the capture of the Irish Yeomanry at Lindley under Colonel Spragge does not allude to General Colvile's responsibility or culpability for that disaster.

Mr. BRODRICK: It is not always of advantage to the public service for a commander to publish in despatches his views upon the conduct of his subordinate generals. Such questions are usually dealt with by a separate communication, for the information of the authorities at home.

SANNA'S POST DISASTER.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can explain why has the report made to the Commanding Officer at Bloemfontein by the artillery officer in charge of the guns which were captured at Sanna's Post, on 31st March, 1900, not been published; and whether in that report the circumstances under which the guns were left without the protection of cavalry were detailed, and the persons responsible for the capture of the guns they deserted named.

Mr. BRODRICK: It has been frequently explained to the House that it is not customary to publish the reports of officers in subordinate command, and it is not intended to do so in this case. All reports received about Sanna's Post were carefully considered and weighed by Lord Roberts before forwarding his despatch on that action.

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: Did that report give the names of the men guilty of the loss of the guns, which you are suppressing now?

[No answer was given.]

Mr. SWIFT MacNEILL: Answer.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been answered. The hon. Member was informed that the report could not be published, and he now asks its contents.

EXPENDITURE ON HOSPITALS AND AUXILIARIES PAY.

Colonel NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many millions have been spent during the South African operations on clothing, hospitals, and civil labour, respectively.

Mr. BRODRICK: The figures for hospitals cannot be calculated separately, as the cost is spread over several votes. For clothing, the amount is five millions, and for civil labour three millions; of the latter, a considerable portion was included in the heading "Auxiliaries Pay."

WAR MEDALS.

Mr. W. F. D. SMITH (Westminster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can arrange that the South African medal shall be available for presentation to Yeomen and Volunteers returned from the front at the annual assembly of their regiments and battalions during the present drill season.

Mr. BRODRICK: I shall be glad to do so if possible. The question will be considered.

GERMAN-MADE GUNS.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, owing to the batteries of field guns purchased in Germany having been paid for out of savings on Votes, an opportunity cannot be given to the House of discussing the value of the guns so obtained; whether, in addition to the admitted weakness in the axles, he has received information that the more important mechanism for running the gun forward into the firing position has proved unsatisfactory; and whether similar mechanism has been adopted in the gun of any foreign Power.

Mr. BRODRICK: The springs for running the gun forward were found to be weak at long ranges. Stronger springs have been tried with satisfactory results at the longest ranges, and will be substituted for the weaker springs. Guns of this type are under trial in various foreign countries. I do not think any special opportunity for debate can be given, but, on the War Office Vote, very general discussion is permissible.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how many guns for the use of the Army in South Africa were purchased in Germany between 1st November, 1899, and the 1st March, 1901; what was the total cost of these guns; and how many of them became defective after being used for a short time.

MR. BRODRICK: I must refer the hon. Member to full replies on this subject which were given to questions put by the hon. Members for Wednesbury and the Chelmsford Division of Essex on the 28th February and 11th March respectively.†

SOLDIERS' WIVES' SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the wives of men who married off the strength, with the prospect of shortly entering the reserve, but have been detained with the colours, will be given separation allowance after the period when their husbands have completed their term of seven years, in the same manner as the wives of the reservists.

MR. BRODRICK: The wives of soldiers who would have been entitled to transfer to the Reserve had no war taken place will be granted separation allowances. The circumstances of each case will, however, be inquired into, to see that it corresponds with the above decision.

DECEASED SOLDIERS' ESTATES—CASE OF PRIVATE CONHOY, 1ST BATTALION EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Private Edward Conhoy, late of the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, died while on furlough, at the residence of his brother, in Glasgow, on the 21st of August, 1899, after having served five years in the Army. Whether the deceased soldier's funeral expenses were borne by his brother: and whether inquiries will be instituted with the view of having the amount of deferred pay, due at the time of his demise, remitted to his relatives in Ireland.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): After crediting the estate with the deferred pay and the Government funeral allowance, the charges for the funeral and other expenses incurred by the relatives exceeded the amount of the estate by 8s. 8d. The creditors were accordingly paid in due proportion. I am not aware that the brother has paid the 8s. 8d. still due.

FIRST CLASS ARMY RESERVE—SECTION D.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state why the men of Section D of the First Class Army Reserve belonging to the Brigade of Guards have done no training since 1896; and why, notwithstanding that they are drawing reserve pay, they have not been called upon to volunteer for South Africa, while the services of both Militia and Volunteers have been asked for and accepted.

LORD STANLEY: The reservists of Section D who were in their 1st and 3rd year of engagement trained in 1899. The whole Section D reserve of the Scots Guards and half of the Coldstream Guards were called up and joined the battalions in South Africa. The remainder were not required, as the battalions of Grenadiers and Coldstreams were able to keep up their full strength without them.

H.M.S. "MEDUSA."

MR. LEVERTON HARRIS (Tynemouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is contemplated removing H.M.S. "Medusa" from North Shields or replacing her by some other vessel; and, if so, how long the Tyne will be without a drill ship.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): It is proposed to replace the "Medusa" by another ship during her temporary appropriation for experimental purposes.

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† See *Debates*, Vol. xc., pages 35 and 1152.

PETERHEAD HARBOUR WORKS.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state what was the total expenditure on Peterhead Harbour up to the 31st March, 1901; what is the estimated total cost of the harbour; how long have the works been in progress, and what is the estimated period required for their completion.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The total expenditure upon Peterhead Harbour up to the 31st March, 1901, was £398,000. The total estimated cost of the harbour is £972,520. The works have been in progress since the year 1885; the estimated period for their completion was 38 years. It is therefore expected that they will be finished in the year 1922-23.

ROYAL MARINE LIGHT INFANTRY—ROMOTIONS FOR SERVICE IN CHINA.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the dates of the brevet promotion to lieutenant-colonel of the two majors Royal Marine Light Infantry for service in China, which it was stated in the Admiralty official communication on 9th November last would be notified hereafter, have been yet communicated to the Royal Marine Divisions, and what is the reason that such dates have not been published in the Navy and Army lists.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It has been necessary to communicate with the War Office with regard to the date of these promotions. I am not yet able to inform the hon. Member of the decision of that Department, but hope to be able to do so at a very early date.

THE WRECK OF THE "GOONLAZE."

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the circumstances attending the wreck of the "Goonlaze," involving loss of life, on 5th February last, in Bideford Bay, and to the evidence given at the Board of Trade inquiry held on the 18th and 19th instant; whether he is aware that at such inquiry four witnesses gave evidence that they had seen distress signals in Bideford Bay early in the morning of the 5th February; that five witnesses gave evidence that the woodwork of the wreck showed distinct traces of flares or other distress signals having been used; and that no such distress signals were seen by any of the coastguards stationed on the coast; and whether, under these circumstances, and having regard to the dangerous nature of the coast and the advisability of taking every precaution to ensure the safety of sailors and fishermen, he will order an inquiry into the question as to the adequacy of the coastguard service between Hartland Point and Westward Ho!

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No Report has as yet been received at the Admiralty from the Board of Trade giving the results of the inquiry into the wreck of the "Goonlaze." When the Report has been received the question of the adequacy of the coastguard service between Hartland Point and Westward Ho! will be carefully considered by the light of the information contained in the Report.

INDIAN PARCEL POSTAGE RATES.

*Lieut.-Colonel TUFNELL (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India will consider the advisability of making any reduction in their rates for inland parcel postage; and whether some reduction was actually contemplated within the last two years.

Lord G. HAMILTON: Proposals submitted by the Government of India for reducing the rates of inland parcel postage are now under the consideration of the Secretary of State in Council; and I hope that they will very shortly be approved.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK FINANCE.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state if the balance-sheet of the Post Office Savings Bank at 31st December, 1900, showed any increase or any decrease in the excess of liabilities over assets, which excess on 31st December, 1899, was £504,928 1s. 10d.; what were the total liabilities of the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1900, and do they show any increase or any decrease as compared with 31st December, 1899, when they were £130,138,344; what amount of 2¾ per cent. Consols was included among the assets of the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December, 1900, and does that amount show an increase or a decrease as compared with the amount on 31st December, 1899, which was £67,330,884, and what amount of such Consols is now held by the Post Office Savings Bank.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The balance-sheet of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund at 31st December, 1900, is not yet completed, but I have no doubt that, taking the securities at the market value of the day, it will show a considerable increase in the excess of liabilities over assets as compared with 31st December, 1899, as will also the total liabilities of the fund. The balance of £2¾ per cent. Consols held on account of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund at 31st December, 1900, amounted to £64,737,170, being a decrease, as compared with the amount on 31st December, 1899, of £2,593,714. The amount of Consols held for the Post Office Savings Banks Fund at 31st March, 1901, was £63,934,205.

TAXATION ON SHIPOWNERS.

*MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can inform the House what contribution the shipowners of the United Kingdom make to the Imperial Revenue; and whether, bearing in mind that the increase in Navy expenditure has been mainly incurred in the interest of the mercantile service, he will consider the advisability of imposing a special tax on the tonnage of vessels.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Shipowners pay income tax and other taxes like other persons. They also pay fees for special services to the various Departments rendering them, such as the Board of Trade and the Customs. Some of these are paid direct by the shipowners; others come out of the light dues, which amount to about £500,000 a year, and are collected from shipowners. I pointed out the other day that, in my opinion, shipowners would contribute through the coal duty to the revenue, but I am not prepared to suggest such a special tax as is referred to in the question.

PROFESSIONAL MEN AND THE INCOME TAX.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of Mr. Gladstone's statement in 1853 that about one twenty-second part of the income tax was then paid by professional persons, he can ascertain the corresponding fraction paid by professional persons at the present time.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: There are no statistics available that would show exactly what proportion of the income tax is paid by professional persons at the present time. But from inquiries made in the year 1895–96, it appears that in that year persons of the professional class paid about one twenty-seventh of the total sum received. It is thought that at the present time the proportion would not exceed one thirtieth.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): Can you ascertain the amount of income tax paid by colliery proprietors?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I cannot say, but no doubt it is very large.

THE NEW COAL DUTY—PATENT FUEL.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether pitch used in the manufacture of patent fuel will be liable to the new coal duty.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The duty of 1s. per ton is leviable on the total weight of manufactured fuel exported, irrespective of its constituents.

INCIDENCE OF THE DUTY.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the broad principles upon which coal shipped to Jersey is charged the duty, and coal shipped to the Isle of Man is not so charged; and whether coal shipped to the Scilly Isles is liable to the duty.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: The principle is that for Customs administration the Isle of Man is part of the United Kingdom, but has the right of adjusting its own tariff, though it is worked by the Commissioners of Customs. There will be a clause in the Finance Bill for preventing the export of coal from the Isle of Man, where, otherwise, there might be made a depôt for coal. The Channel Islands are in no way part of the United Kingdom, any more than any other British possession. The Scilly Islands are part of the county of Cornwall.

Mr. FLYNN: Is it the fact that while the Isle of Man has the regulation of its own Customs the Isle of Ireland is refused it?

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: Yes, and I believe that even under the Home Rule Bill Ireland was not to have control of her Customs.

RUNNING CONTRACTS.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has yet decided upon the extent of the modification he will make in the coal duty in respect of contracts entered into prior to its imposition, the nature of the contracts to which the concession will apply, and its duration; and whether he will make known his decision in time to allow the electors of the Monmouth Boroughs an opportunity of forming a judgment upon the value of the concession before recording their votes at the forthcoming election.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: The contracts which have been sent in will be examined with the utmost despatch, but it will certainly be some days before I am in a position to make any definite announcement on the subject. I am not dealing with it with any view to the Monmouth Boroughs election.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: Can the right hon. Gentleman hold out any hope of a decision before the election takes place?

[No answer was returned.]

SEABORNE COAL—RETURN.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if, before the Report stage of the Ways and Means Committee (Coal) Resolution, he will lay upon the Table a Return showing the export of seaborne coal for the years 1890 to 1900, inclusive, from the United States of America, India, Australasia, and Japan to, say, the half dozen countries to which the largest quantities are in each case shipped; and if it is not practicable to issue such a Return in time, will he arrange that the information shall be furnished to any Member who may apply at the Board of Trade.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): No, Sir, it is not practicable to prepare such a Return within the time specified, and I am not convinced that its utility is sufficient to justify the very considerable labour entailed in its preparation.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: I only ask for a Return as to half a dozen countries.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, but it would be very voluminous.

FACTORY BILL.

Mr. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state when he proposes to issue the memorandum on the Factory Bill which he promised in his opening statement.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon): I do not think it is quite correct to say that I promised the memorandum. It would be a matter of extreme difficulty, and to fully explain the measure it would have to be as long as the Bill itself, while a short memorandum, I am afraid, would serve no useful purpose. I hope, having regard to the fact that the Bill itself as well as the Consolidation Bill, is now in their hands, hon. Gentlemen will do without a memorandum.

Mr. TENNANT: Then I take it nothing further will be done in the matter?

*Mr. RITCHIE: That is so. I cannot do it.

DANGEROUS CONDITION OF WELSH QUARRIES.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the dangerous condition of various disused quarries on Halkyn Mountain, Flintshire, notably the quarries known as Cop-y-frân, Bryn-y-garreg, and Hagnallt respectively, owing to the imperfect state of the fencing around them; and whether the fences which have been placed round some of these quarries by the Crown authorities have repeatedly been removed, or partially removed, by wilful persons, whom the police have not as yet been able to bring to custody; if so, whether steps will be taken by the county police authorities in future to put a stop to the wilful damage to the fences, and ensure the safety of the public using the mountain paths.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have made inquiry with regard to the quarries mentioned in the question, and am informed that two of them are in a dangerous state through damage to the fencing. There appears to be some doubt as to the manner in which the damage has been caused, and the Police Report which I have received states that in some cases, at any rate, it has been caused by cattle. The matter is not one in which I have any jurisdiction, but I will communicate with the Office of Woods upon the subject.

SCOTTISH TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if the Government, recognising the hardship inflicted on Scottish teachers who were in office before the passing of the Teachers' Superannuation Act, inasmuch as by their acceptance of that Act they are deprived of any pension from their school boards, will grant to such teachers, on their being compelled to retire, such augmentation of their superannuation allowance as will make their pensions equal to those of teachers coming under the Act after it became law.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The amount of the superannuation allowance under the Teachers' Superannuation Act is fixed by the terms of the Act, and the Government have no power to increase that allowance. It is made to teachers in office before the passing of the Act on a higher scale than to others. But I am not prepared to admit that they can establish a claim to be put on a level with teachers who contribute to the Annuity Fund during the whole of their service. The acceptance of the Act by existing teachers was optional, but they were aware when exercising their choice that the acceptance of the Act deprived them of any pension from a school board.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that the University of Edinburgh in its public examinations for the allocation of bursaries awards to the papers given in Greek double the number of marks given for either French or German; and, in view of the fact that this action on the part of the University Board places students of French and German at a disadvantage in competing against students of Greek, and may tend to discourage the study of the two former languages, will he consider the expediency of suggesting to the authorities the advisability of rendering the difference less pronounced.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I understand that the regulations with regard to marks in the examinations, as settled by ordinance, which was submitted to, and approved by, Parliament, are as indicated in the hon. Member's question. The matter is not one which falls within the functions of the Secretary for Scotland, and he does not think that it would be expedient for him to make suggestions to the university authorities on the subject.

NEW EDUCATION CODE—ARTICLE 101.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he is aware that the proposed addition to Article 101 of the new Code, raising next year the minimum age of the scholars attending classes in cookery, gardening, and manual instruction, will have the effect in small schools of closing useful classes already in existence, and of preventing new classes from being opened in these subjects, owing to the insufficient numbers of children above the compulsory school age; whether, if this is so, he will consent to some modification of the Article, which shall permit of the continuance and development of such classes for children above the age of eleven with the consent of His Majesty's inspector.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): I am not aware that the notice of the probable modification of Article 101 in next year's Code will have the effect which the hon. Member anticipates. The minimum age for manual instruction is practically unaltered in this year's Code, and will remain unaltered in next year's. The question whether a lower age than that prescribed for manual instruction can be retained for cottage gardening or any other of the subjects of instruction for which special grants are made shall receive careful consideration.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that under existing regulations girls under the age of twelve years may not learn cookery, but over twelve are compelled to learn chemistry?

SIR J. GORST: The hon. Member is entirely mistaken. There is no such regulation.

SWINE IMPORTATION INTO WIGTOWNSHIRE.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he is aware that the importation of live pigs from Ireland into Wigtownshire, through the port of Stranraer, has been prohibited by the Local Government Board for Scotland for the past two years, in consequence of the supposed prevalence in Ireland of swine fever; and whether, seeing that this fever is not now prevalent in Ireland, he will direct that the port of Stranraer be opened for trading purposes as usual.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The County Council of Wigtownshire have prohibited the import of live pigs from Ireland into any portion of that county, and the continuance of that prohibition is a matter within their discretion. They have of course no power to prevent the importation of pigs at Stranraer, if it is intended to convey them direct to a place outside the county.

MEMBERS' LOCKERS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will take steps to secure lockers for those Members of the House who have not yet got them.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I will undertake to bring the hon. Member's suggestion before the Committee, which is now sitting, on the House of Commons Accommodation, for their consideration.

LAND TRANSFER ACT—APPLICATION OF COMPULSORY CLAUSES TO CITY OF LONDON.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he can state to what date has the application of the compulsory clauses of the Land Transfer Act, 1897, to the City of London been postponed, and why has any postponement taken place.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The postponement operates until 1st January, 1902. The Lord Chancellor received a deputation from the City last February, who signified that objections had been raised to the application of the Act to the city; the Lord Chancellor considered that time was required to receive and consider the details of such objections, and agreed to recommend the postponement accordingly.

FLAX-GROWING IN IRELAND.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say if the promised experts on flax growing have been appointed in Ireland; and, if so, in what districts; and, if such appointments have been made, whether he can say why preferences have been given to some portions of Ireland and not to all.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Four experts have been appointed. One, an expert in scutching, is available for any part of Ireland. The other three are experts in the cultivation of flax; one of them is stationed in the county of Londonderry, and two in Down.

MR. DALY: Why have the counties of Derry and Down thus been favoured and other Ulster counties had no experts sent them?

MR. WYNDHAM: We have had great difficulty in securing the services of experts, but we hope to train Irishmen for the posts, and they will be sent to other counties.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Where did the experts come from?

MR. WYNDHAM: Three came from abroad. We have no experts in Ireland at present, but we hope to produce some.

MR. DALY: Can you give the House the names of the experts?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have no doubt I could if I had notice, but I do not see that any great public advantage would be derived by doing so.

STATE RAILWAYS FOR IRELAND—NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the profits arising from the State Railways in New Zealand for last year amounted to £1,621,000 sterling; and whether the Government will consider the advisability of adopting a similar system in Ireland, with a view to reduce taxation and to increase transit facilities.

MR. WYNDHAM: At my right hon. friend's request, I will reply to this question. The net receipts of the Government railways in New Zealand for the year ended 31st March, 1900, amounted to £571,533. In answer to the second paragraph, I have nothing to add, at present, to the statement already made by me.

DUNDRUM CRIMINAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the hours of work and duty the indoor tradesmen attendants are compelled to serve under existing rules in the Criminal Asylum, Dundrum; whether it can be arranged for such employees to finish after a fair day's work in confined workshops without compelling them to do duty in wards; whether he is aware that a memorial was presented to the inspectors; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made, with the object of shortening the hours of the persons referred to.

MR WYNDHAM: The tradesmen attendants have not been asked to perform any duties outside their agreements. The Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums are now making inquiries into the whole subject, and on receipt of their Report I will again communicate with the hon. Member.

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL ACCOUNTS.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the auditor of the accounts of the county council of Monaghan disallowed several sums that were allowed to the rate collectors as irrecoverable rates in that county, on the technical grounds that the Local Government Board were not informed thereof; whether he is aware that, before these allowances were made to the rate collectors, their accounts were checked by the district council, and amounts certified irrecoverable; and whether he will direct that the surcharge made against three members of the county council of Monaghan will be remitted.

MR. WYNDHAM: The payments to the collectors were made in contravention of Aritcle 3 of the County (Poor Rate Collectors) No. 2 Order of 1899, and were disallowed, in consequence, by the auditor. It is open to the members of the county council to appeal against the decision of the auditor pursuant to Section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1898, and any such appeal, if lodged, will be considered.

Mr. DALY: By whom will the appeal be considered?

Mr. WYNDHAM: By the Local Government Board. The surcharge must be made if the law is not conformed with, but there is an appeal on the equity of the transaction to the Local Government Board.

IRISH POOR LAW OFFICIALS' PENSIONS.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, having regard to the fact that the Probate Duties Act of 1888, which contributed to the superannuation of poor law officials in Ireland, was based on the amount of superannuations paid in the year 1887, whether he can state in how many unions in Ireland there were officials getting pensions in that year, and the amount paid in each union; and whether, in case of a larger number fo superannuations of poor law officials in the future than took place in 1887, will a corresponding increase take place in the probate duties grant to Ireland.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The amount of Ireland's share in the Probate Duty Grant is determined in accordance with Treasury regulations under the Finance Act of 1894. The distribution only was based on the salaries, remuneration, and superannuation allowances paid to officers in 1887. Neither an increase in such payments nor a redistribution between local bodies would affect the total amount payable to Ireland.

Mr. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if it is his intention, on behalf of the Government, to propose to supplement the pension fund proposed to be created under the Poor Law Officers (Ireland) Superannuation Bill by a public grant; and, if so, to what amount, and from what source.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I cannot foreshadow Amendments, which might or might not be advisable to a private Bill. All the more since, as I have stated, the attitude of the Government towards that Bill will largely depend on the result of an actuarial examination into its ultimate effect on the rates.

TRAINING OF ASSISTANT NURSES FOR IRISH WORKHOUSES.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has made inquiries as promised into the facilities proposed to be given for the training of girls as assistant nurses in Irish workhouses, which would enable him to grant a Return showing the number of trained and untrained nurses serving in Irish workhouses, the salaries paid to trained and untrained nurses, and the probable cost of complying with the Order of the Local Government Board as to qualified trained nurses in such institutions.

Mr. WYNDHAM: A Return is in preparation, and will shortly be presented to Parliament.

ARDAGH BURIAL GROUND.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the reason which guided the Local Government Board in declaring that the area of charge for the cost of a new burial ground at Ardagh should be the Longford Dispensary District, which would include the urban district of Longford; whether he is aware that prior to the passage of the Local Government Act the township of Longford formed part of this district; and, can he state the grounds upon which the Local Government Board have now varied this order, so as to make the area of charge the whole union of Longford instead of the dispensary district as at first arranged, including the urban district of Longford.

Mr. WYNDHAM: On the 19th January, 1898, the Local Government Board, at the request of the rural sanitary authority, fixed the area of charge for this work on the electoral divisions constituting the Longford Dispensary District. The reply to the second paragraph is in the affirmative. The variation of the original order has not been made by the Board, but is the result of the Local Government Act itself, as, under Section 234 of the Public Health Act of 1878, amended by Schedule VI. of the Local Government Act and Article 36 of the Adaptation of Irish Enactments Order, 1899, burial ground expenses are now "district charges." This case is, therefore, no exception to the general rule.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the variation of the original arrangement is causing great friction between local authorities in Ireland, and will he include in the proposed Provisional Order some change which will obviate this?

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot give so general an undertaking. I am, however, looking into the whole question.

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS—COMMITTALS.

*MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant a Return showing the average yearly committals to industrial schools in Ireland for the year preceding the 1st October, 1898, and two subsequent years; and whether the Government intend introducing legislation this session dealing with reformatories and industrial schools in Ireland; and, pending such legislation, the Lord Lieutenant will withdraw the circular issued to Irish magistrates, dated 1st October, 1898.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of children committed to industrial schools in Ireland during the year ended the 30th September, 1898, was 1,338. In the two succeeding years the numbers were 939 and 985 respectively. A Bill dealing with reformatory and industrial schools has been prepared, but I cannot undertake to introduce it during this session. It is not proposed to withdraw the circular of October, 1898.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman have the Bill printed at once?

MR. WYNDHAM: It would be a most unusual course to print and circulate it in a session in which it was not to be introduced.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): But surely it is not unreasonable that Irish Members should desire the information.

CASTLEREA AND BALLAGHADERREEN WATER RATES.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what was the amount of the last poundage rate levied (1) in the town of Castlerea in connection with the Castlerea waterworks, and (2) the last special rate levied on Ballaghaderreen for the Ballaghaderreen waterworks; (3) what would be the water rate on the town of Frenchpark under a loan for the proposed Frenchpark waterworks, and for how much of it would the landlord be liable if the expenses were a townland charge, the same as in Castlerea and in Ballaghaderreen in the one union.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answers to the first, second, and third queries are 1s. 7½d., 1s. 7d., and 10d. in the £ respectively. Frenchpark is not a town or township under municipal government, and is really a village, with a population of 305 persons. The landlord would pay one-half in any case, whether the area is a limited one or the whole rural district.

MR. TULLY: Is the right hon. Gentleman also aware that Castlerea and Ballaghaderreen are not under municipal government?

[No answer was returned.]

KING-HARMAN (LONGFORD) ESTATE.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that an application has recently been made to the Land Commission for an advance on behalf of John Gill, a tenant on the King-Harman (County of Longford) Estate; by what right, when Gill had signed his agreement to purchase his holding at £500, a further sum of £240 in cash was demanded; is he aware that only one year's rent was due by Gill, which he has since paid; and will he explain how, when an agreement is signed and the necessary affidavits sworn, any further demand can be made upon the tenant.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question appears to be based on a misapprehension of the facts. The tenant agreed to purchase his holding and some additional land for a sum of £690, of which £550 was to be advanced by the Land Commission, and the balance (£140) paid by the tenant in cash. The agreement was verified by the affidavit of the tenant. A dispute having subsequently arisen as to the terms of the agreement it was dismissed by the Commissioners, and no demand was made by them for payment of the cash portion of the purchase money.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the tenant was not cognisant of the contents of the agreement when he signed it, and did not know he would be called upon to pay £240 in cash in addition to the £500 agreed on?

MR. WYNDHAM: No; my information is that the agreement was verified by the tenant's affidavit.

IRISH CREAMERIES.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been directed to the proceedings of the Cork County Council, on the 16th instant, when a letter was received from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction informing them that the department was prepared to make loans to creameries for the erection of plant for the process of Pasteurisation, and when the county council unanimoulsy passed a resolution protesting against the allocation of public funds by the Department solely in the interests of creameries, while apparently making no provision for improving the dairy industry in other districts of the county by loans on like terms to dairy farmers to purchase hand separators and improve the condition of their own dairies; and if, before public funds are used solely in the way proposed, the Council of Agriculture will be called together to discuss this question and advise the Department as to the best means of improving the dairy industry generally throughout the county of Cork.

MR. WYNDHAM: I stated on Monday last that the question of making loans for the purchase of separators was engaging the attention of the Department. The matter will be brought before the Council of Agriculture at its meeting next month.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: Will a new policy be carried out without consulting the council?

MR. WYNDHAM: We can only act with the appliances placed at our disposal.

IRISH CONSTABLES AND EVICTED FARMS.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that members of the Royal Irish Constabulary force have taken evicted farms in Ireland; and whether, in view of the unpopularity of this action, he will consider the advisability of taking steps to cause its discontinuance.

MR. WYNDHAM: Some three or four members of the Constabulary have taken evicted farms. They are prohibited under the regulations from themselves taking part in the working of land, whether evicted or otherwise. But this prohibition is personal to members of the force, and it is not proposed to extend it.

MR. CULLINAN: Is it not distinctly against the rule for members of the Royal Irish Constabulary to take farms?

MR. WYNDHAM: As I understand it, the regulations lay it down that they shall not engage in the working of farms; but they may hold land elsewhere than in the county in which they are stationed.

MR. DILLON: Are we to understand that the wives and children of the men may take and work evicted farms?

MR. WYNDHAM: We can draw no distinction between evicted and other farms.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Will you grant the wives separation allowances?

MR. CULLINAN: Are these men, the custodians of law and order——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

SMALL-POX AT LISBURN.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a serious outbreak of small-pox has occurred in Lisburn, and whether he can state what measures have been taken to stamp out this outbreak of small-pox.

MR. WYNDHAM: The medical inspector of the Local Government Board has conferred with the local authorities on the steps to be taken for preventing the spread of the disease. They are fully alive to the importance of taking effective precautionary measures, and are at present considering the question of providing an isolation hospital.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Will steps be taken to enforce the vaccination laws?

MR. WYNDHAM: Does the hon. Member mean to suggest that the law is not enforced? I am not aware of it.

DAVID FINLAY ESTATE, CO. CAVAN.

MR. M'GOVERN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the estate of David Finlay and others, situate in the county of Cavan, has been in the Court of Chancery during the past ten years for the purpose of sale, and that the solicitors and receiver of the estate, with the sanction ot the Court of Chancery, got the tenants on the estate to sign agreements to purchase their holdings through the Land Commission over three years ago; can he state what has been done with these agreements; and will the Court of Chancery direct the receiver to refund to the tenants the money that has been collected from them for rent instead of interest since the agreements were signed.

MR. WYNDHAM: The sale of this estate is not taking place under the 40th section of the Act of 1896. An order for the sale of the estate was made in 1890, and about three years ago the tenants signed provisional agreements to purchase. I am informed it is no part of the agreements that the tenants should be free from rent pending the carrying out of the sale; in any case, such an arrangement would be nugatory, as it has not received the sanction of the Land Judge.

MR. M'GOVERN: Why have the provisions of the 35th section of the Act of 1896 been set aside?

MR. WYNDHAM: This case does not come under the Act of 1896. The estate was sold before that Act was passed.

TREATMENT OF INSANE PRISONERS IN IRELAND.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether prisoners who become insane while awaiting trial, or during their sentences, in Ireland are maintained out of Imperial sources, or out of the funds for the maintenance of the lunatic poor.

MR. WYNDHAM: Prisoners who become insane while awaiting trial, or during their sentences, are removed to the lunatic asylum of the district in which the gaol is situate; their cost, consequently, falls on the funds for the maintenance of the lunatic poor. In exceptional cases prisoners who become insane while serving a sentence of imprisonment are sent to Dundrum Central Criminal Lunatic Asylum, maintained out of Imperial sources, but prisoners awaiting trial cannot be committed to that asylum, and must be transferred to the district lunatic asylum.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is it not the fact that in England, when prisoners become insane while in prison, they are sent to prisons for the insane, and not to public asylums? Cannot the same practice be carried out in Ireland?

MR. WYNDHAM: The accommodation for State prisoners in Ireland is very limited, but I am considering what can be done. I see the point raised by the hon. Member.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Yes, it is very hard upon Irishmen.

FERMANAGH ROMAN CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION.

MR. M'GOVERN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Fermanagh

Roman Catholic Board of Education acknowledge any obligation to give effect to the proposal, dated 20th October, 1886, of their late chairman undertaking to spend half the Roman Catholic portion of the endowment in maintaining an intermediate school in Enniskillen; and, if so, when they propose carrying out that proposal; whether he is aware that the present chairman of the Board sent a written statement to the Commissioners of Education, dated 3rd January, 1900, stating that now that it is known that the Roman Catholics of Enniskillen desire an intermediate school in their town it may be taken for granted that no effort will be spared to have that wish satisfied; and, whether any steps have been since taken to carry out this undertaking; and, if not, what reasons exist why it should not be carried out.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners are not aware that the Fermanagh Roman Catholic Board of Education has made any such acknowledgment as that suggested. The Bishop of Clogher, who subsequently became chairman of the board, wrote a letter in January, 1900, which suggested that, if a local fund was raised in Enniskillen, it would be possible to establish an intermediate school. No further steps seem to have been taken, and the powers of the Fermanagh Board under the scheme have lapsed.

TRUCK ACTS—DEANE v. BOYLE.

*Mr. TENNANT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the case of Deane *v.* Boyle, under the Truck Acts, the amount of the fine was returned to the defendant by order of the Court or under instructions by the Executive Government; and whether any communication was made to the Home Office before the repayment was made.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.). It having been decided by the High Court in one case that the offence charged did not come within the Truck Act, the fines imposed by the magistrates in several other cases of an identical character were remitted by the Irish Executive after consultation with the Home Office.

*Mr. TENNANT: Were the magistrates communicated with?

Mr. ATKINSON: No. They decided that certain cases came within the Truck Acts, and the High Court took the opposite view with regard to one which was accepted as a test case.

*Mr. TENNANT: Were the cases on all fours?

Mr. ATKINSON: Yes, Sir.

THE PROSECUTION OF MR. P. A. M'HUGH, M.P. — PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DUBLIN NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the Irish Government are taking steps to institute proceedings against the editors of the *Freeman's Journal* and *Evening Telegraph* respectively for alleged contempt of court in connection with the recent case of the Crown *v.* P. A. M'Hugh, M.P.; if so, what are the grounds on which these proceedings are taken, and under what statute; and are there any other newspapers, either in Ireland or England, which commented upon the disagreement of the first jury who tried the case to be proceeded against.

Mr. ATKINSON: An application for an attachment for contempt of court on the 12th February was made against the journals mentioned. The contempt consisted in publishing comments on a pending prosecution calculated to prejudice the fair trial of the issues raised. The application was grounded on the common law, not on any statute, and is not yet disposed of. I am not aware that comments of the same character were made by any other journals.

Mr. FLYNN: Is the right hon. and learned Gentleman aware that *The Times* newspaper commented on the first disagreement of the jury?

Mr. ATKINSON: The comments in the journals mentioned in the question were comments to prejudice the trial of the action.

Mr. DILLON: They were comments against the action of the Crown.

Mr. FLYNN: On this day week we shall raise the entire question.

An Hon. Member: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will pack a jury to try *The Times*.

LAND COMMISSION ADVANCES—SMALL HOLDINGS.

Colonel NOLAN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the Land Commission are empowered to make it a condition of any advance of money on their part for the purchase of a large grass farm that the intending purchaser should allot a portion of such grass farm to small tenants in the neighbourhood, with the object of increasing such small holdings.

Mr. ATKINSON: The reply to this question is in the negative.

IRISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that some firms engaged in the manufacture of writing and copying inks in Ireland have recently requisitioned to be placed on the list of contractors to the Stationery Office and other Government Departments in that country; whether samples have been sent to His Majesty's Stationery Department for examination; and whether, in view of a declaration made by Ministers in this House that all goods for use in this department should be of Irish manufacture, he will use his influence to have Irish-made copying and writing ink ordered for the use of the Government Departments in Ireland.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): The facts stated in the first two paragraphs are correct. The application is now under consideration.

IRISH EX-POLITICAL PRISONERS—POLICE BLUNDER.

Mr. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Mr. J. P. O'Brien, of Dublin, an ex-political prisoner, who is at present in London suffering from ill-health, has been subjected to surveillance by Scotland Yard officers; and that, on Tuesday evening last, Inspector Hedley and another officer called at the house, 15, Felix Street, Hackney, where Mr. O'Brien was on a visit to his brother, and questioned him as to his identity and movements; will he say what explanation the police authorities have to offer for the action of these officers; and whether it is with the sanction of the Home Office that Mr. O'Brien has been subjected to this surveillance.

*Mr. RITCHIE: The officers acted in this matter in the ordinary course of their duty and not under special instructions. I understand that on the occasion of their calling on Mr. O'Brien they told him they had done so under a misapprehension, and that he was not the man they were looking for, and that Mr. O'Brien accepted the apology.

Mr. FLAVIN: Were they justified in going to a cemetery during the interment of a gentleman and causing great inconvenience there?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr. FLAVIN: That took place yesterday.

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL—REX v. COCKERTON.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the fact that the London School Board, at its meeting yesterday, resolved to abandon any further appeal against the Cockerton judgment; and whether, this being so, he is prepared now to state what the Government's intentions are in respect of the situation created by that judgment.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

Mr. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that the London School Board has decided not to appeal to the House of Lords on the Cockerton case, His Majesty's Government will now proceed, by a short Bill and by an amendment of the Minute of April, 1900, to egalise the higher education given by school boards in higher grade and science schools, and the admission of adults to evening continuation schools under school boards.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is intended to introduce an Education Bill this session; and, if so, will this be done before or after Whitsuntide, and in which House of Parliament.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I will answer all the questions with regard to the Education Bill at the same time. We propose to introduce such a Bill in this House, probably before Whitsuntide, but as to that I cannot give any assurance.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Can the right hon. Gentleman give us a definite assurance by the end of next week? The matter is one of grave importance.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. I do not know that I can do that. I have informed the hon. Gentleman that the Government intend to introduce a Bill on this subject.

Dr. MACNAMARA: May I point out that my question deals with the fact that the School Board for London has abandoned its appeal in respect to the Cockerton judgment, and may I ask the First Lord whether the Bill will cover the points raised by that judgment?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Gentleman had better wait until the Bill is introduced.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): May I ask whether, apart from the Bill, any steps will be taken to deal with the schools affected by this judgment?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The necessity for dealing with anything outside the Bill evidently cannot be considered with advantage by the House until they see the Bill.

Mr. WHITLEY: May I ask the Leader of the House if it is not a fact that the Bill promised by the Government is to deal with secondary education, and that the difficulty which has arisen is a very serious one——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now entering upon a discussion of the right hon. Gentleman's answer.

Captain NORTON: May I ask whether some steps will be taken to enable those children who are taking advantage now of the higher education under the School Board to continue it, irrespective of whatever the Bill may do?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking a question as to what is proposed to be done by the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman has already stated that the House had better wait until the Bill is introduced.

Captain NORTON: No, Sir. I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman not anything arising out of the Bill, but whether some steps will be taken to prevent those children who are now attending the schools being struck off those schools in October, prior to the passage of the Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope that the 1st October will not be prior to the passing of the Bill. I shall be very much surprised if it is. I have already indicated to the House in answer to questions dealing with the Cockerton judgment that the Government intend to introduce an Education Bill. I should have thought that that general statement would be sufficient for hon. Members until they see the details of the Bill.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS COMMITTEE.

Mr. BARTLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state when the Joint Committee appointed to consider the various charitable agencies relating to the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors, the members of which were appointed on 27th March last, will meet to commence its duties.

MR. KEARLEY: Has not the Committee been moved from the other House and appointed?

MR. BRODRICK: This is a question which should be addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury.

MR. KEARLEY: As the First Lord has probably more knowledge than the right hon. Gentleman, I will ask him if the names have not been settled a long time in both Houses? Can he say when the Committee will meet to take evidence?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe the hon. Member is quite correct, and that the names have been agreed upon by both Houses. By the immemorial usage of Parliament, it rests with the House of Peers to determine when the Committee shall meet, and I do not know why the delay has occurred. But I will make it my business to find out.

GIBRALTAR HARBOUR WORKS—THE RECENT INQUIRY.

***SIR JOHN COLOMB** (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury can he state whether the Commission or Committee appointed to inquire into the safety of the harbour and works on the western side of Gibraltar and the proposal to construct a harbour or works on the eastern side have yet sent in their Report; and, if so, when was it received; is the Report unanimously agreed to by the four members of the Commission or Committee, or is there any divergent Report by a minority of the members; and do His Majesty's Government propose to lay the Report upon the Table of this House; if not, do His Majesty's Government propose to communicate to the House the general purport of the Report; and, if so, when.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that an interim Report has been presented to the First Lord of the Admiralty. A further meeting of the Committee is contemplated to consider some outstanding questions. I am not in a position to go into details in connection with this matter, but I may remind my hon. friend, as I said in the House on 28th February, that this inquiry was not to be considered as one by a Commission or Committee in the strictest sense of the word. There was no specific reference, and I could not pledge myself to there being any formal Report.

PROPOSED MINISTER OF COMMERCE.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a Minister of Commerce, with an adequate and capable staff, having similar duties to those belonging to ministers of commerce in various competing countries.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give any encouragement to the suggestion of the hon. Member.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS MAJESTY'S ACCESSION—THE MISSION TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the fact that Lord Wolseley, as Extraordinary Ambassador of His Majesty the King, waited, on the 11th April last, on the Sultan of Turkey, to announce formally the accession of the new English Sovereign to the Throne, and to express the sincere sentiments of esteem and friendship by which King Edward had always been actuated towards the august person of His Imperial Majesty; on whom lies the Ministerial responsibility for the delivery of this message by a representative of the King of England to the Sultan of Turkey; and what explanation have the Government to offer of this action.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is a fact that Lord Wolseley was sent to Constantinople. We have no information as to the language used, but we have no reason to think that it was different from that which is employed on such an occasion. His Majesty's Government are of course responsible.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Ordered, That all Standing Committees have leave to print, and circulate with the Votes, the Minutes of their proceedings and any amended clauses of Bills committed to them. (*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*)

NEW BILLS

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Joseph Walton, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Pickard, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Mr. Caine, Mr. Barlow, and Mr. Tennant.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT (No. 3) BILL.

"To amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 7th May, and to be printed. [Bill 148,]

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Bill to amend the Law relating to Factories and Workshops, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Tennant, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Talbot, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Haldane, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, and Mr. M'Kenna.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Factories and Workshops," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 7th May, and to be printed. [Bill 149.]

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (WALES, INCLUDING MONMOUTHSHIRE).

Bill to provide for improving and extending the procedure for obtaining parliamentary powers by way of Provisional Orders in matters relating to Wales, including Monmouthshire, ordered to be brought in by Mr. D. A. Thomas, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. M'Kenna and Mr. Bryn Roberts.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (WALES, INCLUDING MONMOUTHSHIRE) BILL.

"To provide for improving and extending the procedure for obtaining parliamentary powers by way of Provisional Orders in matters relating to Wales, including Monmouthshire," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 11th June, and to be printed. [Bill 150.]

SUPPLY [4TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

CLASS III.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £32,443, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, for the Salaries of the Law Officers' Department; the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions; the Costs of Prosecutions, of other Legal Proceedings, and of Parliamentary Agency."

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs): I believe that under this heading it has been usual to draw attention to the state of business in the Law Courts, and at the present time it is eminently desirable that that should be done. In the first place, the business of the Court of Appeal is unhappily very much in arrear. I do not think that anyone in the profession will dispute that the Court of Appeal commands the confidence of the public in no ordinary degree, and I am sure that those who are familiar with the subject will acknowledge that there is no more hard-worked court in this country. The work is exceedingly heavy. It has been increasing year by year, and it has now come to this pass—I do not think the Attorney General will dispute it—that the court is overwhelmed by a mass of business greater than it can overtake in normal circumstances. Last year I asked a question of the First Lord of the Treasury with regard to the condition of arrears in the court's work, and I invited from him some indication that steps would be taken to deal with the difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman told me that the Lord Chancellor was considering the subject. That, so far as it went, was a satisfactory piece of information, but I am sorry to say that the consideration has not led to anything at present; indeed, instead of there having been any amelioration of the pressure, the work is heavier now than it was last year. Under these circumstances I think we may fairly regard this as a state of things which promises to be permanent unless steps are taken for the purpose of remedying it. During the last few years the mass of work in addition to that which they had before, and which was already, in my opinion, quite enough, has been something enormous. It is a bad policy to overburden the judges with work in the way that has been done in recent years, and to deprive them of every opportunity of relaxation, or even the time to consider their own judgments and contemporary law. Among the additional burdens which have been cast upon them is the jurisdiction arising from the Workmen's Compensation Act, which has been vested by statute in the Court of Appeal, and which takes up a considerable amount of time. To my thinking it is no longer necessary to impose on the Court of Appeal the duty of deciding these cases. I think also they ought to be relieved of another burden—namely, the appeals which lie direct to the Court of Appeal from the decisions of Judges in Chambers. The Court of Appeal consists nominally of six judges, but no allowance is made for infirmity or the possibility of illness, which, of course, occasionally happens, except that the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and the President of the Probate Division are Members of the court, and may be called upon in case of emergency. But these three learned judges are completely occupied with important business of their own, and it is sometimes impossible to get a full court. That is not a state of things that ought to prevail. You should not place such a stress of work upon judges distinguished for their talent and public spirit, or so great a burden that the arrears are now heavier than they have been for some time past, and are a source of real difficulty in the conduct of legal business. I hope we shall hear from the Attorney General that the Government have got a little beyond the stage of consideration, and, at all events, are really about, in a short time, to give the public some assistance to remedy this state of matters. That is the first thing I wanted to say.

The second point I will treat much more briefly. It relates to the continued evils or inconveniences arising from the circuit system. That system is a great source of embarrassment to litigants and to the judges themselves. I do not in the least recommend that the judges ought not to go on circuit to try criminal cases as often as possible, because I think the criminal business of the King's Bench Division is of more importance than the civil business. It is of far more importance that the administration of justice in criminal matters should be prosecuted all over the country than that the higher legal acumen should be applied in the civil courts. There is no doubt that in consequence of the extension of civil business great inconvenience has been periodically felt in the administration of criminal business. This is a very old subject of complaint. I am sure I must have referred to it repeatedly in the course of the last four or five years, and I think my hon. friend the Attorney General has also drawn attention to it frequently; but we have never got any forwarder in the matter. The late Attorney General, the present Lord Chief Justice, a year or two ago said there were very grave difficulties, and that they were trying to deal with them. Of course there are grave difficulties, but they have never been met, and we go on from year to year, and from term to term, without anything being done. I do not think I would be in order in making any proposals, but I will hint at one, and that is that the Government should consider whether they could not diminish the work of the King's Bench Division by extending the jurisdiction of the county courts. I cannot enter upon it in detail, but if the Lord Advocate were consulted as to the jurisdiction of the Sheriffs' Courts in Scotland, which is up to £3,000 in land, and unlimited in regard to movable property, I believe we should learn that there is nothing except the ancient obstinacy of the profession here to prevent a large and beneficial extension of the jurisdiction of the county courts in this country being carried out. That is one thing I would suggest. There is another, and that is that there might be a regrouping and a rearrangement in some way of the circuits. I think that ought to be done. Sometimes judges go round and there are no civil cases to try, and hardly any criminal cases. At other times there are very few and little work to do, and great expense and waste of time are incurred. It appears to me that the Attorney General should stimulate his colleagues to come to some practical conclusion on a matter which has caused great trouble indeed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The arrears of work in the Court of Appeal have been referred to more than once, but they are, I trust, due to causes which are not permanent in their operation. My hon. and learned friend seems to apprehend that the causes at work are permanent, but I would remind him that several of the members of the Court of Appeal have recently suffered from illness, and owing to the constitution of that court—there being two divisions with three judges in each—a full court cannot under these circumstances be constituted unless the Lord Chief Justice is able to sit. But we must hope that the recurrence of illness in the future will not be so great as, unfortunately, it has been in recent times. I listened with great pleasure to what my hon. and learned friend said as to the members of that court. There never have been in the Court of Appeal more able or distinguished members, animated by greater public spirit and devotion to their duty. We have just now a very strong Court of Appeal, and its members have endeavoured to the very utmost that in them lay to meet the somewhat embarrassing circumstances which have arisen from causes for which they are, of course, in no way responsible. My hon. and learned friend says that another cause of the delay in the Court of Appeal arises from the fact that further duties have been thrown upon it by the Workmen's Compensation Act and appeals from the decisions of judges in chambers. I understand that the organisation of business in these matters is under consideration, probably with reference to a rearrangement of the King's Bench Division and the constitution of a strong divisional court; and one feature of any such rearrangement may be to relieve the Court of Appeal from some portion of the business and those extra burdens to which my hon. and learned friend has referred.

SIR ROBERT REID: That would require an Act of Parliament.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: It may be so. I am not at all sure that I am regular in referring to proposed legislation. My only excuse is that my hon. and learned friend has dealt with the subject as if the Government were responsible for legislation. My hon. and learned friend has referred to the difficulties of the circuit system. One of his observations I most cordially agree with. I believe that the administration of the criminal law is even more important than that of the civil law, and I trust that, whatever changes may be made, nothing will be done to lessen the dignity which at present attends the administration of the criminal law of the country. I quite sympathise with one observation which my hon. and learned friend made, and that is, in connection with the evils attached to the uncertainty of the sittings of the judges caused by the working of the circuit system. It would be most desirable, if, by any method of re-arrangement of business as between town and country, it could be settled before the beginning of each term how many judges would be sitting in town, and how many in the country, so that there should be none of those violent fluctuations of the number of judges sitting in the King's Bench Division—one week more judges than are called for, and another week not enough judges to carry on the business. That is a matter which, I hope, may be adjusted. I should not be in order in following my hon. and learned friend as to the possibility of extending the jurisdiction of the county courts. Proposals have been made in that direction, and I have no doubt they will be considered. Although I am not in a position to make a distinct pledge, I hope my hon. and learned friend will accept as satisfactory the intention and spirit of this reply.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): The discussion of this Vote year after year unfortunately invites very little attention from hon. Members on either side of the House, and it is one of the most hopeless and heart-breaking proceedings in which we can be engaged. Every year the same complaints are made, and every year the same answer is made. Year by year nothing is done to remedy a state of things which gives rise to the complaints we have had brought before us by my hon. and learned friend with unusual emphasis. I do not hesitate to describe it as a shocking state of things in relation to our appellate jurisdiction. Business in the Court of Appeal is simply blocked, and that means to litigants throughout the country delay, expense, injustice, and embarrassments of every kind. I entirely agree with the hon. and learned Attorney General, and my hon. and learned friend the late Attorney General, that fault for this state of things is not to be found in any want of zeal or judicial skill on the part of the judges. But there are causes which are in constant operation, and which are universally acknowledged, but which no one appears to raise a finger to get rid of. Let me briefly enumerate them, although I will be going over ground which has been traversed a hundred times. In the first place we have got into the habit —I do not say that this Government is more responsible than some of its predecessors—of withdrawing judges, particularly judges of the Court of Appeal, from judicial for non-judicial duties. For instance, during a considerable part of the autumn and winter of last year, an eminent member of the Court of Appeal was sent by the Government to South Africa, on a Commission to inquire into the state of our hospitals and the Army medical system, a duty which could have been equally well discharged by a person who did not hold judicial office. After the experience we have had of the inconvenience and dislocation produced over and over again by similar proceedings in the past, I think it is very much to be regretted that the Government should have weakened the power and efficiency of the Court of Appeal in this manner. I was very glad to hear the remark of the Attorney General that, as all familiar with legal proceedings will agree, there is an enormous number of unnecessary appeals under our present system, and although it is quite true that this evil is now not of such great dimensions as it was in the past, still a great deal more might be done to diminish the possibility of an appeal in trivial matters, where the right of appeal is not necessary in the interests of justice, but merely affords a pretext to people to put off meeting their just debts. That is the second cause. The third is the one which my hon. and learned friend dealt with, and which is now a commonplace. The present state of our circuit system, which does not directly affect the Court of Appeal, although it concerns it indirectly, leads to an enormous congestion of business in London, and to constant uncertainty—though certainty ought to be the very essence of legal procedure—among litigants as to when their cases would be tried, and enhances, to a degree which it is impossible to estimate, the general cost of the administration of justice in this country. I know how difficult it is to conciliate local sentiment with the requirements of the administration of justice as a whole, but I think the time has come when a serious effort should be made to put an end for ever to what, without using exaggerated language, I may call the scandalous spectacle of judges whose services are wanted for judicial work wasting their time and energy in all parts of the country, either doing no work at all or doing work of the most trivial and trumpery description. I agree with the point which has been urged so often by my right hon. friend the Member for East Wolverhampton, that you cannot adequately settle the circuit question, or the larger question of the Court of Appeal, until you have a devolution of jurisdiction, on a large scale, from the High Court to the lower courts in the country. In Scotland the extension of the jurisdiction of the Sheriffs' Courts has not in point of fact been attended with any of the evils which it was said would arise, and by the distribution of judicial functions between the Court of Session on the one hand, and the Sheriffs' Courts on the other, the work of litigation has gone on more smoothly, speedily, and economically than in England. I cannot conceive why a businesslike people like the English should not take a leaf out of their neighbour's book in this matter, and, casting aside prejudice, give to the High Court that relief which every year is so urgent a necessity. If that change could be made I believe this annually recurring complaint would be met, and that our judicial system would be put on something like a reasonable and economical foundation.

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said that greater economy and greater efficiency could be very easily obtained with regard to the work of the Attorney General and Solicitor General for the Government. Under the last Liberal Government the Attorney General was paid a salary of £10,000, and the Solicitor General a salary of £9,000, which included all the business transacted by the law officers, whether it was of a contentious or non-contentious character, and the salaries were fixed with a view to enabling the Attorney General and the Solicitor General to devote their whole time to Government business. Anyone who had experience of the House of Commons knew that the various matters on which the law officers had to advise the Government and the various departments must take up their whole time. When the previous Government entered office in 1895 a change was made, by which the Attorney General and the Solicitor General were paid by salary, but were also allowed fees for contentious business against the Crown. The salaries fixed were £7,000 for the Attorney General and £6,000 for the Solicitor General. How did that work out? In 1895-6 the Attorney General received in salary and fees £10,916; in 1897, £13,030; in 1898, £14,563; in 1899, £17,264; and in 1900, £18,804. No doubt it might be said that there was the Venezuela Arbitration, but the amounts increased year by year, and if it was not the Venezuela Arbitration it was something else. The salary and fees paid to the late Solicitor General were in 1896, £6,691; in 1897, £9,365; in 1898, £10,946; in 1899, £11,844; and in 1900, £11,329. It was obvious that if the law officers of the Crown received fees for contentious business there would be no limit to what they might get. The fees were fixed by one of the subordinates of the Attorney General, who only had to make an appearance in court, and perhaps not speak at all, or know very little about the case, to get his fee. Every hon. Member would feel, considering the time the House sat, and the amount of advice the law officers had to give to the various departments of the Government, that it was impossible they could attend to contentious business in the courts. It was an unfair principle, because the public service suffered, and the law officers were unable to give that attention they required to the various complex matters which arose every year. The matter was of importance, apart from the amount of money involved, as the Government should have the best possible advice. Last year, very important questions in reference to contraband of war awaited the attention of the law officers for several days, and it was obvious that the law officers had no leisure to attend to contentious business. They had now reached a stage when they ought to have a Committee to inquire into the whole question of the salaries of the Attorney General and Solicitor General, and unless the Government were prepared to promise to appoint that Committee he would have to move a reduction of the Vote. In the hope of getting a reasonable answer, he would delay moving an Amendment until the Government replied. The matter called for immediate attention.

*Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I have frequently addressed the House upon this question, and I am not going over the same ground I have previously taken. The opinion I have always held is that the only satisfactory way of paying the law officers is by giving them fixed salaries, in return for which they should give the whole of their time. That was strictly the view of Lord James of Hereford, Lord Davey, and Lord Justice Rigby. An arrangement to adopt this course was come to under the late Government, but the present Government has thought fit to alter it, and they know whether the new arrangement has been economical or not. I still hold that the work put on the law officers now requires their constant attention in the House, the work devolving upon them in all departments making their posts very much more onerous than it ever was before. But those who discuss this question must understand that no one has ever discharged this duty with greater assiduity or ability than the hon. Gentlemen who now hold the offices. Another remark I wish to make is this, that where officers of the Crown have a fixed salary and fees, the details of those charges are set out on the Estimates, and I think that the details of these charges should be set out, following the rule which applies to other officers of State who receive special remuneration. I should now like to say a word in support of the views which have been expressed by hon. friends on this side of the House. With regard to the unsatisfactory state of the administration of justice, it is a growing evil. The administration of justice is getting more difficult and more costly than it has ever been. The answer given by the Attorney General is just the same as the answer given by his predecessors for many years, and might just as well be lithographed and handed down from Attorney General to Attorney General, and so we go on and no improvement is manifest. There can be no defence for the present state of things. The numbers of places the judges have to go to, the days spent in doing nothing, and the formalities of opening commissions, take much precious time from the administration of justice in London, and Chambers of Commerce and others interested in this matter are continually sending remonstrances to the House in reference to it.

Now, while the Vote affecting the law officers of the Crown is under discussion, I should like to call the attention of the Treasury to another point. There is an item on the Vote relating to the payment of the Solicitor to the Treasury and his assistants. The number and qualifications of these officers were fully discussed a good many years ago by a strong departmental committee, which considered the mode of working the internal departments of the Treasury. Upon that Committee were Lord Bowen, Lord James, and, I think, Lord Randolph Churchill. It was a very strong Committee from a legal point of view as well as the administrative point of view. That Committee expressed the opinion that the education and training of what is euphemistically called the lower branch of the profession was more calculated than that of a barrister to produce the administrative and legal power which was expected from assistant solicitors. A vacancy has recently occurred among these officers, and I am informed that a barrister has been appointed to fill it. I understand that other vacancies may shortly occur, and I wish to suggest to the Treasury that they should disinter from their archives the Report of this Committee, and see whether there is any good reason why their recommendation should not be followed. There is another point to which I desire to call attention. With reference to the retirement of the clerks, I have been requested to bring this before the House by an old friend, whose absence we all regret, who often when here delighted us with his humour. I mean Admiral Field. This is a matter upon which he feels very strongly, and I am simply doing what he would have done had he been here. The recommendation of the Ridley Commission as to retirement at sixty-five, while adhered to in other departments of the public service, for some mysterious reason has received no attention in the legal department. There are no less than twenty-five clerks whose ages range from sixty-five to seventy-five, and whose length of service is from thirty-two to fifty-four years. The result is that promotion among the clerks of that department is practically stopped. I do not ask the House to express an opinion, I only ask the Secretary to the Treasury to look into this question again.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Upon a point of order, would this matter come under this Vote?

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: It is one of the details of this Vote.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said that in his opinion the hon. Member for Mid Lanark had clearly made out his case. The point which he now desired to make was, that the hon. and learned Gentleman could not possibly, under existing arrangements, give sufficient time to non-contentious business of the House. The declaration made by the King at the time of his accession must have been made on the advice of the Attorney General, and he believed that when the Attorney General gave that advice he acted under an erroneous impression, and it was quite evident that that impression arose because he had not had time to discuss that very curious document the Bill of Rights. The true construction of the Bill of Rights was that the King was not under any legal or moral obligation at that time to make that declaration. The Bill of Rights was passed in 1689, and at that time Parliament ceased to meet immediately on the demise of the Crown. He contended, therefore, that the words in Section 10 "on the first day of the meeting of the first Parliament" meant the first Parliament convened by the new King, and no other.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think it will be open to the hon. Gentleman, on the Attorney General's salary, to discuss the meaning of a statute. There are proper courts in which the meaning of a statute can be discussed and interpreted.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he was dealing, not with the construction of a statute, but with the advice given by the Attorney General, for which he was paid £7,000 per annum.

*THE CHAIRMAN: On the hon. Member's own showing, he is dealing with the construction of a statute. That is a matter of law, and I do not think it can be raised in the way in which the hon. Member seeks to discuss it.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): said it was a great question of constitutional procedure, for which the Ministers of the Crown had stated they were responsible. It was not a question of law in the ordinary sense, but a matter of constitutional procedure, and the Ministers who had accepted responsibility for it had stated that they acted upon the advice of the Attorney General. He submitted, under those circumstances, the Committee was entitled to attack the advice which had been given.

MR. CALDWELL asked if it was possible to find fault upon this Vote with the manner in which the Attorney General gave his advice.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the Attorney General gives advice which leads to a wrong decision, then the courts are open in which that decision can be challenged. I do not think this question can be raised upon the Attorney General's salary.

MR. DILLON said he understood the ruling to be that the remedy lay in a court of law; but how was it possible for them to challenge the action of the Ministry in the present instance in any court of law?

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is asking a legal opinion from me, which I am not able to give.

MR. DILLON said he understood the Chairman based his decision on the point that it was open to his hon. friend to challenge the question in a court of law.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) pointed out that the Attorney General might give advice which would result in foreign complications, and he wished to know in that case whether it would be competent to raise the point upon this Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think it would be competent on the Attorney General's salary. The action of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would be open to discussion, but not the action of the Attorney General.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL asked if there was any other Minister excepting the Attorney General upon whose action they could bring this question up.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not say that this House cannot discuss the question, but I do not think the question can be raised upon the Attorney General's salary. I only desire to rule on the present occasion that it cannot be discussed upon this Vote.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): You stated, Mr.

Lowther, that in the case of the Attorney General giving advice upon foreign affairs to the Minister acting, it is the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who would be responsible. I would ask which Minister it is who would be responsible in this case?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot give an answer to that. It is quite possible that the Government as a whole might be challenged as to their action upon this question. All I desire to say is that I do not think the point raised is in order upon the salary of the Attorney General.

MR. DILLON asked how could they indict the whole Government in Committee of Supply?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have already pointed out that the Committee of Supply is not the only occasion upon which the action of the Government can be criticised.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I assume, for argument's sake——

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I must decline altogether to enter into an argument upon the question. I have given my best attention to the point, and I have given my decision.

*MR. HEMPHILL: If you have given your final decision, then I have nothing more to say. What I wish to submit is that if the Attorney General in point of fact gives a bad opinion to the Government of which he is a member, is that a ground for discussion on the salary of the Attorney General, and can it be raised upon this Vote?

*THE CHAIRMAN: An hon. Member has asked me the question before, and I answered it in the negative. I have nothing more to say, as I have already given my decision upon this matter. I must ask the right hon. Gentleman to proceed with some other question.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said this was a matter in which Parliament was vitally interested——

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. Member not to discuss my decision further. I have given my decision to the best of my ability.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he was not challenging the decision. He submitted that the King followed Ministerial advice in making the declaration, and the Attorney General was responsible.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is arguing the point which I have determined.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: This must be the subject of a motion in the whole House, for it is a matter which must be settled. I asked the Colonial Secretary a question with reference to the indemnity which was to be paid by the Chartered Company as far back as October, 1899, and I got the answer that the indemnity would be settled after the war. An hon. Member the other day asked a question with regard to this indemnity, and the Colonial Secretary then stated that, on the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown, no indemnity was to be paid at all. May I challenge that statement now?

*THE CHAIRMAN: That, in my opinion, would properly come in upon the salary of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL submitted with great respect that the Colonial Secretary shoved them off on to the Attorney General, and declined all responsibility, and he wished to know to whom were they to go? Was it a legal point outside the purview of the House?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I can promise the hon. Member that if he raises that question upon the salary of the Colonial Secretary, I shall hold that he is perfectly in order in doing so. It would be obvious that, upon his own showing, the action of every Department of the State could be raised upon the salary of the Attorney General, and on the face of it that is impossible.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he should point out to the House that the Attorney General enjoyed immunity in regard to the advice he gave. No matter how wrong his advice was, he was paid £7,000 out of the public funds, and the House was gagged.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that although the case he wished to raise was not the same as that raised by the hon. Member who had just spoken, yet there was a certain similarity between them. The question he wished to raise was in connection with the advice given by the Attorney General regarding the seizure of certain vessels suspected of having on board contraband of war. His complaint was that international law had been violated, and he desired to challenge the advice given by the Attorney General.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That question will arise very properly upon the salary of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs or of the Board of Admiralty, who took certain action upon the advice received. If that is what the hon. Member challenges, that is the proper time to raise it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he would bow to the Chairman's ruling, and would not pursue the question further.

MR. DILLON said he desired to raise a perfectly clear and definite issue, and for that purpose he moved to reduce the salary of the Attorney General by £6,000 a year, on the ground that he was incompetent to discharge the duties of his office. He wished to state his case clearly and fairly. Was it not open to a member of the Committee, when they were called upon to vote £7,000 a year to a high official of the State, to challenge that Vote on the ground that he was incompetent for the position he occupied, and were they not entitled to argue, in support of such contention, that he had given to the Government a series of mistaken advices? What was the Attorney General paid for? He was paid under two heads. Under the present system the larger portion of his salary was for contentious business, and that had nothing to do with keeping the Government straight. Practically, the sole purpose for which this £7,000 a year was paid was that he should act as adviser to the Ministry, in order that whenever the Ministry required legal advice, either on constitutional questions or upon questions affecting the relations with foreign Powers, they should have at their hands the best possible legal advice. Supposing, he contended, that the present Attorney General was not the best possible legal adviser, and was incompetent to fill one of the most important positions in the State, how was he to argue that if he was not allowed to go into the different circumstances upon which he based his contention, and if he was not permitted to examine the advice given by the Attorney General? He submitted that all those whose salaries were on the Estimates—including even the Chairman—were bound to submit their conduct in the discharge of the duties for which their salaries were paid to the judgment of the Committee. They heard in the opening of this discussion what appeared to him to be a totally irregular debate upon the administration of the Courts of Justice in the country, and that was allowed to go on for a long time. Were they to be told now that the Attorney General in respect to everything that he did to earn his £7,000 a year was above and outside the criticism of this House? That was practically what it amounted to. The Attorney General's salary was to be voted *sub silentio*, and they were told that they were not entitled to criticise any of his acts. What did the Attorney General do, besides contentious business, but advise the Ministry? He wished to know what else he did for his £7,000 a year. He entirely understood the position taken up in the Chairman's ruling, that when there was a question of advice given by the Attorney General to the Foreign Minister, the Colonial Secretary, or the Home Secretary, the responsibility for the action taken by them might reasonably be laid upon the shoulders of the Minister; but when they were met by that Minister with the sharp answer, on proposing to discuss his action, that he was acting upon the advice of the legal advisers of the Crown, what were they to do? For the purpose of raising this question he begged to move the reduction of the salary of the Attorney General by £6,000, on the ground of his incompetence to discharge the duties of his office in respect of advice given to Ministers of the Crown.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by

£6,000, in respect of the Salary of the Attorney General."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am not going to prove that my hon. and learned friend is competent, because, I believe, even the hon. Gentleman who has just moved this reduction does not require proof of that. The Committee recognise that my hon. and learned friend is as competent as any of his long list of distinguished predecessors. I would respectfully point out to the House that while, of course, it is not out of order to move a reduction of his salary on the ground of incompetence, it would be absolutely impossible under our existing system to challenge any particular legal decision or advice given by the Attorney General, because the opinions of the law officers of the Crown have invariably been regarded as confidential documents, and are never laid under any circumstances before the House. The various Departments of the Government are from time to time greatly beholden to the law officers for advice, and the Ministers guide themselves constantly by their advice, but it is the Ministers who are responsible to the House for their action. The law officers have no control over the legal action of the Government. A Minister is not obliged to take his law from the Attorney General. He may go anywhere he likes for his law, but he goes to the law officers because he thinks he will get better law from them than he would get elsewhere. From the very fact that the advice of the law officers of the Crown is of a confidential character, it is manifest that any charge of incompetence such as that brought forward cannot be, and ought not to be, discussed upon an occasion like this. I hope the House will see the propriety of the general rule which I have laid down. If the House wants to challenge the conduct of Ministers who have not followed the advice of the law officers, they should do so on the Votes of those Ministers, and not upon the Vote for the law officers of the Crown. The hon. Gentleman says that the Secretary of State for the Colonies informed the House the other day that the law officer had given an opinion upon certain equities connected with the Chartered Company, but the Colonial Secretary did not shelter himself behind the law officers, and he did not throw the responsibility upon them.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: He did. I heard him.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg the hon. Member's pardon, but the Colonial Secretary alone is primarily responsible. Of course, it is a responsibility shared by all the Cabinet, but not by the law officers. If the hon. Gentleman chooses to attack the Colonial Secretary on the Colonial Secretary's Vote, no doubt my hon. and learned friends will be quite willing to give in debate their assistance to the Colonial Secretary. Their opinion has not been laid, will not be laid, and could not be laid, upon the Table of this House. It is obviously impossible that the salary of the law officers of the Crown should be attacked on the ground of a particular decision, in which the Ministers have acted entirely upon their own responsibility. I think I have made the position clear. This is not a position which I now take up for the first time, but it is one which has received the support of all those who have been responsible for the government of the country.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said the Colonial Secretary did the other day throw responsibility on the Attorney General, and said, practically, that he had acted according to the opinion of the law officers of the Crown. What did that mean? That the right hon. Gentleman himself was not a lawyer, and did not exercise his own judgment in the matter, but that he accepted fully and absolutely the dictum of the Attorney General. Under those circumstances it could not possibly be contended that the Colonial Secretary did not throw upon the Attorney General the full and absolute responsibility. The Colonial Secretary regarded this matter as a legal question to be decided not by him but by the Attorney General. They did not for a moment say that the Attorney General was an incompetent lawyer, for he believed him to be a most able man. What they did contend was that with all this contentious business he had so much to do that he could not devote the time necessary in order to get up the data of questions on which he was asked to form an opinion. That seemed to him to be a very reasonable view to take. He had often heard talk of the Attorney General's “devil”—he did not know who he was, and he did not like using such terms in connection with any legal gentleman. He presumed that the hon. and learned Gentleman fell back upon his “devil” in these matters. It practically amounted to this—that owing to the large amount of business thrown upon the Attorney General by the Ministry, and owing to the large amount of contentious business which he had to undertake, a portion of the work had to be thrown upon some unknown and mysterious “devil” whom they did not know. Under these circumstances he would support his hon. friend. He did it all the more readily because if the Attorney General were an incompetent man it would be deemed a personal affront to him, but as they had so very competent a gentleman in the Attorney General there could be nothing personal in the matter. He was sure that the Attorney General himself felt that they really wanted to relieve him of a certain amount of his work, and as a necessary consequence of a certain amount of his salary. Why was it that those gentlemen were paid so well? The Lord Chancellor did not get £18,000 a year. A judge of the supreme court did not get that salary. The First Lord of the Treasury, who had come forward for the defence of the Attorney General, did his work in this House for the modest salary of £5,000. But they found the Attorney General and the Solicitor General getting salaries of three or four times what was given to the highest political lights of the country when they were in office. This certainly did seem a mistake, and he believed it arose from this. When they had to appoint an Attorney General they generally took a gentleman who had distinguished himself in the law courts. He was the fashionable advocate at the time. He got very large fees, and naturally he was not inclined to sacrifice those fees unless he got almost the same amount as Attorney General. If they went to another class of lawyers—if they went to wise and eminent lawyers who were not the fashionable advocates of the day, they would, he was sure, find among them competent men who could act as Attorney General if they limited the position of the Attorney General to giving advice to Ministers of the Crown on law matters. The House did not want the Attorney General to blaze forth in rhetoric and eloquence. They wanted a plain, solid, simple man who knew the law, and he would engage to provide the Government at any time from the bar with one of those plain, solid men, who would be perfectly ready to do the business, and who would do the business perfectly well, for a salary of £5,000, and the chance of gravitating into a judgeship afterwards.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 109; Noes, 230. (Division List No. 149.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Caine, William Sproston
Cadwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick George H.
Channing, Francis
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George S.

Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Palmer, Sir Chas.M.(Durham)
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
SinclairCapt.John(Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervin
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.(Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir FrancisT.(Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. AllenBenjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. W.W.B.(Hants.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson(King'sLynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, RtHnJ.A.(Glasgow
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickison, Robert Edmond
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William T.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J.(Manc.
Finlay, Sir Robert B.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A.G.H.(CityofLon.
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. LdG(Midd'x
Hamilton, Marqof(L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset, E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J.F.(SheffieldBrightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir W. Henry
Howard, J.(Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W.(Salop.
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Maxwell, W.J.H.(Dumfriessh

Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mitchell, William
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J.(Walthamstow)
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morris, Hon. Martin HenryF.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pemberton, John S. G.
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hon.M.W.(St'lybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robinson, Brooke
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Col. Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M. H.(Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hereford, E.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen,E.
Thomas,JA(Glam'r'gn,Gow'r.)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Trittton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wallace, Robert
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE.(Taunton
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson,AStanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. CALDWELL said that, now that the First Lord of the Treasury was in his place, he wished to call his attention to a matter connected with the salaries of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, and to ask whether he would appoint a Committee to consider this matter. He might explain to the First Lord that, under an arrangement made by the last Liberal Government, the Attorney General had a fixed salary of £10,000 a year, and the Solicitor General of £9,000. That included all business of the Crown whatever, contentious and non-contentious, and they were debarred from all private practice. Under the present system, since the year 1895, the Government had paid the Attorney General a salary of £7,000, and the Solicitor General a salary of £6,000, but it had allowed the Attorney General and the Solicitor General to practise contentious business for the Crown, but not private business. He would give the First Lord the figures. Beginning with the year 1895, the Attorney General got, including his salary and non-contentious business for the Crown, £10,916. The second year the amount was £13,030; the third year it was £14,563; the fourth year £17,264; and in the year 1899–1900, £18,804, made up in this way—£7,000 of salary and £11,804 of fees. Then, taking the Solicitor General, he had in the first year £6,691; £9,365 the second year; £10,946 the third year; £11,844 the fourth year; and £11,329 the fifth year. Now, as the First Lord of the Treasury knew, that was an enormous salary for the country to pay—because the country paid that. It was not private business. The First Lord knew very well how much strain had been put on the law officers of the Crown of late years, how they had to come to the House at three o'clock in the afternoon, and wait on till sometimes three and four o'clock in the morning, and how impossible it was for the Attorney General, having the important work of advising the Government, to attend to Government contentious business in court in addition to the work he was doing in the House. The Government were not getting what they ought to get, namely, full value for the work devoted to Government business. He asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, when they had reached these large sums of money being paid to the law officers of the Crown, the time had not come when a Committee should be appointed to consider this whole question of the Attorney General's and the Solicitor General's salaries in the interests of efficiency, The Chancellor of the Exchequer told them that they ought to exercise economy. Here was the first opportunity for it. What was the Government going to do? They could not have a better case for economy in the whole Estimates. If economy was not going to be exercised here, they might as well give up the whole idea altogether. In order that the First Lord of the Treasury might give him an answer, he would move the reduction of the salary of the Attorney General by £100. There was nothing personal in his motion, but he simply wished to bring forward the matter as a point of principle.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries), be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Attorney General,"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: As the hon. Gentleman says that this is purely a question of principle, he will have no objection to my dealing with it. I think the hon. Gentleman unintentionally conveyed rather an erroneous impression to the House in reference to this matter. It is not the case that during the whole of the administration of 1892–5 the law officers of the Crown were paid by a salary which covered the whole work. The system lasted only a short time—for, I think, about eighteen months altogether, and then it was dropped.

MR. CALDWELL: It was tried for eighteen months. When the Liberal Government came into power, they could not adapt it all at once, but they did so as early as possible. It was in operation for the last eighteen months of the existence of that Government, and would have continued till this day had the Liberals remained in power.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: At any rate, the system only prevailed for eighteen months. The hon. Gentleman referred to the amounts which the Attorney General had received. He spoke of £17,000 in 1898–99, and £18,000 for 1899–1900. These figures are very misleading indeed, because he does not bear in mind that these include the fees for very special work done upon the Venezuela arbitration in Paris. I do not say the hon. Gentleman improperly kept that back, but he conveyed to the House the impression that £18,000 was a sort of normal salary of the Attorney General under the present dispensation. All I can say is that I wish that the hon. Gentleman was right in his opinion.

MR. CALDWELL: Am I not right when I read the figures year by year?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am not complaining of the figures which the hon. Gentleman read out, but of the inference which he drew from those figures, as if they were the normal earnings of the law officers of the Crown under the present dispensation. I wish that the hon. Gentleman was right, but he is not right. On this question of figures, if the hon. Gentleman had gone a little more fully into the matter he would have seen that one of his points was not quite borne out. If he had taken the year 1894–5 he would have found the salary and fees of the Attorney General amounted to £19,635.

MR. CALDWELL: That is why the system was altered.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am not going to enter into an elaborate discussion as to the propriety of a particular mode of remuneration; but I think that every lawyer will admit that there is a good deal to be said for the system of salary for non-contentious business, and of fees for contentious business as long as these fees are fair and proper. The hon. Gentleman seems to think that the law officers fix their own fees. Nothing of the kind.

MR. CALDWELL: I said that the agents of the Crown fixed the fees, and that those agents were practically the servants of the Attorney General.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The hon. Gentleman is entirely mistaken. If any difficulty arises with regard to the amount of the fees, the Minute provides that it should be finally decided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The hon. Gentleman seems to imagine that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is entirely the creature of the law officers.

MR. CALDWELL: No, but I think that he will give in to them.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am not going into details in a matter of this kind. As long as I have the honour to be a law officer of the Crown, I will not enter into any controversy with the Chancellor of the Exchequer or any one else with regard to fees. Let the Treasury fix the fees as they please. My only concern is to do the Government work. The hon. Gentleman's proposal, as I understand it, is not to go back to the system of paying a salary for contentious and non-contentious business, but that the Government, when a case comes into Court, should be represented, not by the law officers, but by somebody else. What an extraordinary system; that one set of gentlemen should advise the Crown, and another set of gentlemen should go into court and get up the whole case *de novo!* Such a system would not be practicable, and certainly it would not be economic.

MR. ASQUITH: I think my hon. friend was quite justified in raising this question. I am very anxious, and I hope we are all anxious, to discuss this question from an impersonal point of view, and simply from the point of view of the economic working of the Department. That is the only desire I have in intervening in the debate. I should like to remind the Committee of the history of the matter, and of the experience we have had of the two different systems. When Mr. Gladstone's Government came into office in 1892 he laid down a rule which was based on two principles: first, that the law officers should not take any private practice, but should devote their whole time to Government business. Up to that time the Attorney General and the Solicitor General were largely engaged by private litigants, and it was felt that law officers receiving such liberal remuneration from the public purse might well be expected to do what every other Minister had to do—devote their working hours and energies entirely to the Crown. That principle has been carried out continuously from that time to this, the present Government having made no change in that respect. But Mr. Gladstone laid down another principle—that not only should the law officers confine themselves to the public service, but that as soon as possible the whole of their services, contentious and non-contentious, whether advising the Government Departments or conducting cases in courts, should be paid for by one inclusive salary. When the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries became Attorney General, and my lamented friend Sir Frank Lockwood became Solicitor General, during their whole term of office they were paid for everything they did by a single, inclusive salary; and in that respect the present Government have made a departure on the practice of their predecessors. What has been the result? I am not going to make any invidious comparisons between the manner in which the Government work has been done under one *régime* or another. I gladly testify to the fact that never, in my experience at any rate, has the legal work of the Government been more efficiently done both by Sir Richard Webster, now Lord Chief Justice, and by his distinguished successor. That is not the question at all. On the whole I believe the work is thoroughly well done. But measuring the two systems from the point of view of economy, there is no comparison between them. The combined salaries of the law officers under Lord Rosebery's Administration amounted to £19,000—£10,000 to the Attorney General and £9,000 to the Solicitor General. In every subsequent year that sum for contentious and non-contentious work has been largely exceeded, as appears from the figures quoted by my hon. friend, and taken from the official Return. I will not take an exceptional year like last year, when there was the Venezuela arbitration in Paris, which necessarily swelled the expenses of the Department, nor the year 1892, when similar proceedings in connection with the Behring Sea arbitration swelled the expenses of that year. But take any one of the intermediate years you like, and I venture to say that, from the figures of the Return, the expenses of this Department under the system which the present Government have substituted for that which we brought into operation have largely increased. I cannot imagine a fairer case for economy in these days when the Chancellor of the Exchequer hardly ever comes down to the House without lecturing the House and the country and his colleagues on the necessity of economy. I think a fair case for legitimate economy has been brought before the House by my hon. friend, and without making any kind of personal reflection I am compelled to vote for the Amendment.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said that it would be in the recollection of the House that during the Liberal Administration of 1892–95, the President of the Board of Agriculture and others, including himself, had frequently raised this question. They felt that the arrangements in regard to the remuneration of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General were, although extremely liberal, not what they should be; and after their agitation the system was altered and the law officers of the Crown gave up all private practice. That was unanimously felt to be a proper step; and it was thought, generally speaking, that a salary equal to that of the Lord Chancellor was a reasonable sum for the Attorney General, and a slightly less amount for the Solicitor General, to receive. They saw that the extra fees came to a good deal more than the salaries themselves, and they discussed the matter every session until the system was altered. In fact they prided themselves that their agitation had got rid of the private practice and that the salaries of the law officers of the Crown had been settled on a liberal and permanent basis. It seemed to him that the present system had not worked in the way that they had supposed it would, and that the total remuneration was very much larger than was ever contemplated when their agitation brought about the reform. It seemed somewhat unreasonable that the Attorney General should receive a salary more than double that of the Lord Chancellor, and four times that of the Prime Minister. He was sure that the general feeling of the country was that these officers should be handsomely remunerated, but it was not reasonable that these extra fees should be paid. He would like to know how these fees were fixed. An appeal to the Treasury seemed to him a most extraordinary thing. For his part, he did not believe there ever was an appeal to the Treasury. When he and his friends sat on the other side of the House it was not contemplated that the contentious business should bring in more than double the salary fixed at that time. They thought that the permanent fixed salary was to include everything. That was the proper system. The salary should be a handsome one, considering the great fees which a distinguished barrister could command from private litigants, but it ought to be a fixed payment, and, for the sake of the dignity of the office, it should not be left open to these everlasting discussions.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) thought they were entitled to an answer from the First Lord of the Treasury to the question which had been put to him—whether he was prepared to institute some sort of inquiry into the working of the present system, with a view to affecting an amendment upon it. There was no doubt something ought to be done. The figures quoted supported a very strong case for inquiry. The hon. and learned Attorney General in defending his fees confused the issue. He fastened attention on one year and said that that was an exceptional year. But he would take the preceding year, when he found that the fees and salary of the Attorney General amounted to £17,260, and the fees and salary of the Solicitor General amounted to £12,000, or a total of £29,260, as against £19,000 which the Liberal Government considered an adequate payment to the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. That was a difference of £10,000. Now, considering the advisability of economy in every department, he did not know where economy could be more sensibly and rationally commenced than in this particular department. The worst of it was that each year represented a very substantial advance on the preceding one—from

£10,000 to £13,000, from £13,000 to £14,000, from £14,000 to £17,000, and from £17,000 to £18,000 last year. He did not think that it was a sufficient explanation that there had been an exceptional case in regard to the Venezuela Arbitration. A judge was not paid more because he tried a celebrated case. He was not paid in proportion to the heaviness of the work, or to the importance of the cause that came before him. A member of the Ministry was not paid more when he had got big and heavy responsibilities upon him in any particular year. Take the Secretary for War; if he were paid on the fee system, his salary would be greater than that of the Attorney General. Why should there be an exception in regard to these particular officers? He thought lawyers ought to be treated on the same principle as others as to remuneration. They ought to be reasonably, but not extravagantly, paid. A question had been put by the hon. Member who had just spoken. They should like to know on what principle these fees were based. The Attorney General said that in cases of difficulty there was a reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Of course there never was a reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. These fees were fixed by clerks in the Department of the Crown Solicitor, whose appointment and promotion were in the hands of the Attorney General. After all, human nature was the same in solicitors as in anybody else, and those clerks, knowing that they were fixing the fees of the man from whom they expected to get promotion, were not liable to err on a question of the fees to the Attorney General, or in reference to an appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He asked whether there had ever been a single case of a reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to a fee marked by these clerks, or to any of his predecessors.

The Solicitor General (Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University): There have been several appeals to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE ventured to say that they were not very serious. It was very possible that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might have said, "These fees are very heavy, and I should like to have some explanation of them." From what he knew of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that was what might have taken place; but he should like to know of a single case in which a dispute had occurred between the clerks to the Solicitor to the Treasury and the Attorney General, and which was referred to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He thought there would be no answer to that question.

Sir EDWARD CARSON: The law officers do not fix their own fees, and therefore there cannot be a dispute between them and the Treasury Solicitor. What the Treasury Solicitor does is to fix the fees, and he submits them to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said that the way the fees were fixed was just the same as any other fees were fixed for ordinary barristers. The fees were marked on the back of the brief, and it was the business of the Attorney General's or the Solicitor General's clerk to say that the fee was most inadequate, that the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, as the case might be, never entered the court for such a miserable fee in his life. He knew perfectly well how it was done. The Solicitor General, of course, never fixed his fee, and he would say that he never was so surprised in his life as to see a brief marked with such a fee. He had never seen a barrister yet who thought the fee marked on his brief was adequate. He maintained that the system was a bad one. If they allowed the fees to be marked by solicitors' clerks, whose promotion depended on the man whose fees they fixed, they were bound to have these bills growing from year to year. There was no reason why the fees should remain at £18,000. From the way they were fixed, they were quite capable of growing to £80,000 a year. If they had some system, as was inaugurated by the last Government, of fixing the salary of the Attorney General at £10,000, and the Solicitor General at £9,000 a year, they would know what they had got to deal with. The system was thoroughly rotten and unreasonable, and he would support the suggestion of his hon. friend for an inquiry into it, in order that it might be put on a proper basis. He did not think that the Attorney General or the Solicitor General should be called on year after year to defend their own fees. It did not conduce to the dignity of their position or to the economy of the department, and he would ask the First Lord of the Treasury to look into the matter, not from the point of view of any individual, but from the point of view of the public and of economy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Two or three hon. Gentlemen have made a pointed appeal to me, and in these circumstances I will answer them. I do not think it necessary, however, to add anything to what has been said by the Attorney General. There was a great alteration, and, on the whole, although I had doubts about it at the time, I now believe a great reform introduced by Mr. Gladstone's Government. I was dubious about it at the time, but it was sound in this respect, that it prevented the Attorney General and the Solicitor General from having to divide their services between the general public and the Government of which they formed a part. Ever since that change was introduced, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General have served the Government and the Government alone. There can be no doubt that the services of these distinguished lawyers belong to the Government, and the Government have an undivided claim upon them. In that, I assume, the Committee are agreed. There then remains the question as to whether the salary given by the Government should be wholly a fixed salary or partly a fixed salary and partly a salary by fees. For a very short time the experiment was tried of the whole salary being a fixed salary, with no addition in the way of fees. I do not know whether that was thought by the members of the Government who carried it out to be thoroughly satisfactory, but certainly the opinion of the late Attorney General and the present Attorney General, as well as of their colleagues, is that it is a much more convenient and rational system, and one, on the whole, to the public advantage, that there should be a mixed salary, partly by salary and partly by fees.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Hear, hear.

Mr. Lloyd George.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether that ironical cheer from the hon. Member who has just sat down is to indicate that these distinguished lawyers were influenced solely by the anticipation that under the mixed system their remuneration would be greater than under the unmixed system. I am not at all sure when we have the experience of a normal year. We have not had a normal year.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The Attorney General only quoted one abnormal year.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: However that may be, is it contended that the salary we pay to the class of lawyer whose services we demand as Attorney or Solicitor General is greater or indeed equal to the remuneration these gentlemen would get if they followed the ordinary practice of their profession, and were not associated with the Government? It is manifestly a great fallacy to compare the remuneration we give to the law officers to the remuneration we give to the majority of the ordinary members of the Cabinet. There may be exceptional cases in which a member of the Cabinet has abandoned a very lucrative profession in order to serve the State, by doing which he might suffer great pecuniary loss, but these are not ordinary normal cases. I do not know that it is a very great addition to a man's wealth to become a member of the Cabinet, but, as a rule, no very great loss ensues. But if we are going to insist on having the pick of the legal profession for Attorney and Solicitor General, is it wise, and, in the long run, good economy, to fix their remuneration on a scale which does not equal the ordinary market price of their services, and is not equal to the amount they would get if they had never become law officers of the Crown, but had continued to carry on their profession in the ordinary way? I do not think that would be very wise, but that is not the only reason, I think, which should influence the Committee. I would respectfully point out that it is of the highest importance that our law officers should be in constant touch with the courts of law, and I must say that, in the long run, the tendency would inevitably be, if we paid no fees for work in court, that the work in court would gradually, with the lapse of time, not be carried out by our law officers, but would fall largely on their juniors. It is a matter of conjecture, but that, I believe, would be the natural tendency and effect. I never had the good fortune to be a lawyer, and if I had I do not suppose it would have been my still better fortune to be a lawyer in large practice, but I am informed by persons who have been lawyers in large practice that there is so close an association between work in court and the reception of a fee for that work that it produces quite an unnatural and unpleasant sensation to have to do the work and not get the fee. So great is the force of habit that I can very well imagine that that might be the case. But whether that slight excursion into the psychology of the legal profession be accurate or not, I do think that every inducement should be offered to the law officers of the Crown to keep in constant touch with the courts, and do as much of the work of the Government in the courts as is possible or practicable. I think that in the course of time we would find that a fixed system by which no fees were given for court work would have the gradual effect of diminishing the amount of court work that was done by successive generations of law officers. My hon. friend the Member for North Islington asked what was the scale of fees. I understand that the system is that law officers of the Crown should receive the ordinary professional fees of a King's counsel of average standing, with this limitation, that the maximum should be 150 guineas, with a 30-guinea refresher. In exceptional cases, and at the discretion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, larger fees may be given, but only under certain circumstances. I hope I have given reasons for adhering to the system which has now been in force for six or seven years.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Under the system that was enforced by a previous Government the salaries for the two law officers amounted, I think, to £19,000. In 1896–97 it grew to £22,000, in 1897–98 to £25,000, in 1898–99 to £29,000, and in 1899–1900 to £30,000. We know that the Army and Navy expenditure has largely increased, but we have not yet heard that the wants of the Empire demand a proportionate increase in the salary of the law officers. The simple ground on which I shall support the motion is that I do not know the amount of these fees.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Attorney General does not remember his fees for last year, but the Solicitor General does—fees and salary together amounted to £8,500.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: It is perfectly certain, in my opinion, that there is no justification for this progressive expenditure on the law officers. The simple ground on which I shall vote in support of this motion is that these duties ought to be discharged for less than £30,000 a year. The right hon. Gentleman has said that it is an advantage that the law officers should go into court, but they might go into court at a fixed salary. It is said that it is necessary for the acuteness of a law officer, as it is supposed to be of a physician, that he should feel the fee in his hand, but if we fix salaries sufficiently high we might surely expect that both his learning and eloquence would be at the disposal of the country for a less amount than he now receives. We must see the great danger of this divided system, for if the law officer has any choice in this matter he might think it either very advantageous to be always in court or to always remain away, according to circumstances. I shall vote for the reduction, in order to express my opinion that this progressive increase in the expenditure is not justified, and that these services ought to be rendered, as they have been before, at a much lower rate.

MR. SPEAR (Devon, Tavistock) said he ventured to join in the appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury to consider the expediency and importance of fixing an adequate but definite scale of salary for the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. He did not think the Committee wished the law officers to be underpaid, but having regard to the fact that in all municipal bodies, whether they were county councils, boards of guardians, or district councils, it had been found absolutely necessary, in the interests both of efficiency and economy, to pay the law officers a definite salary, he thought that Parliament ought at least to afford an example to municipal bodies in the matter. He emphasised the question at this juncture because of the recent remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the great importance of exercising economy in the administration of public departments, and he thought the Committee would be making a very good start if they decided that in future the law officers should be paid a definite salary. He could not regard it as otherwise than serious that the cost of the law officers had increased from £19,000 to £30,000, and as a loyal Unionist he considered that the country would expect the Committee to practise as well as preach economy. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to make an arrangement by which the law officers should be paid an adequate but definite salary, instead of being paid partly by salary and partly by fees.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said he did not consider the explanation of the First Lord of the Treasury as at all satisfactory. Indeed, that explanation, if he had had any doubt in his mind, would certainly have decided him to vote in favour of the reduction. The Committee was supposed to be an assembly of hon. Members possessing great business capabilities, but he would ask any business man, if he had a servant whose salary was increasing by leaps and bounds, whether he would not put his thinking cap on and consider a rearrangement of the system which permitted it. They were told the figures were not normal, but there had been an increase year by year. He ventured to suggest, from the business point of view, that it was desirable that a limit should be placed on such expenditure. How were the fees settled? They were settled by a little family party consisting of the Solicitor to the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The explanation of the First Lord of the Treasury was that it was desirable that the law officers should be in touch with the courts, and that they would have no incentive to go into the courts unless they obtained fees. That was to say, that having fixed the salaries of the law officers at a certain sum—and there was no desire to be parsimonious or niggardly in the matter—they were so wanting in uprightness that they would draw their salaries and refuse to go into the courts. He entirely refused to believe that the present law officers of the Crown would act in such a manner. The Committee were quite ready to vote a sum commensurate with the abilities of the hon. and learned Gentlemen, but he thought the check on the fees should not be in the hands of the Government. If the fees were once fixed he believed the country would be satisfied, and the Committee would be spared discussions year after year which they must all deplore. Even at the eleventh hour he appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to reconsider his decision.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he hoped His Majesty's Government would not allow the Committee to go to a division with the mere statement made by the First Lord of the Treasury. He did not want to vote for the reduction of the salary of the Attorney General, because he believed it was as completely and entirely earned as ever an Attorney General earned a salary. It was not a question of amount. It was a question whether the Committee should reassert the principle, which had been so often asserted by his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture, that the Attorney General and Solicitor General should be paid by fixed payments. He was extremely anxious that neither the President of the Board of Agriculture nor himself should be placed in a position of difficulty by having either to abandon their principles or vote for the reduction. He thought it extremely inconvenient when there was a Vote for £9,000 for salary, and when in addition another £9,000 was had in fees, that the latter should not be mentioned in the Estimates even in a note. If it were left out the Committee would be asked to vote under a misapprehension and without adequate knowledge in the matter. He thought that was very unfortunate, but he did not attribute it to any desire for concealment on the part of the Government. It was, he thought, a mistake, but that placed the Committee at a disadvantage. The Leader of the House had declaimed against hon. Members who desired to diminish the salaries of the Attorney General and Solicitor General. He was not one who believed that lawyers of such eminence should not be highly paid, though he should be better pleased if they took their payment as the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House did—partly in money and partly in honour; but he did not complain that they required it all in money. He did not suggest that the money was too much, but he submitted it was paid in the wrong way. It should be a fixed salary, whatever amount the Committee liked; say, £20,000 a year for the Attorney General and £15,000, £16,000, or £17,000 or even a larger amount for the Solicitor General. A fixed salary was the true principle. The best and most devoted services in the world were given for fixed salaries. The services of the soldier or the sailor, which sometimes included the giving of his life, were given for fixed salaries, and he would venture to add as a corollary that services given for varying salaries were usually not so creditable, such as the services of vendors of sewing machines, promoters of bogus companies, and such like. Wherever services of the highest and most honourable kind, either to the State or to the individual, were found, they were paid for by a fixed salary. In his opinion, and in the opinion of the President of the Board of Agriculture, the salaries of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General ought to be fixed amounts. He was very much pained to hear the Leader of the House suggest a thing about the law officers which cast a very unmerited reflection upon them. The Leader of the House, in effect, stated that they could not be trusted to go into the courts as often as they would be required unless they were paid fees. He did not believe that for a moment. He believed that if the Attorney General and the Solicitor General were paid fixed salaries they would be just as ready and eager to descend into the forensic arena as they were at present. He should have thought the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, if they had an opportunity of conducting a large case, would seize it with avidity, even without a fee at all, and he was certain they would be quite as anxious to do their duty to the Government if they were paid a fixed salary. He hoped his right hon. friend would withdraw that argument. He really did not know how he and his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture would vote. They did not wish to vote for the reduction, and yet they felt strongly that the present system was bad. They would urge the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House to hold out some prospect that the door was not shut forever against what they considered to be the best system, namely, the payment of fixed salaries.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said as he had been ruled out of order—the propriety of which he did not question—in discussing the gross mistake made with reference to the King's Declaration, he would ask the Leader of the House to kindly tell him what Minister was responsible.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled that that does not arise.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said that perhaps the Leader of the House would answer, but if he did not, he wished to correct a misstatement he made. The right hon. Gentleman said that the opinions of the law officers of the Crown were confidential——

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member cannot go back on that.

MR. LABOUCHERE said his conscience would not allow this Vote to pass without protesting against the most unfair and cruel attack made by the First Lord of the Treasury upon men whom he respected so highly as the Attorney General and the Solicitor General. The only argument the First Lord of the Treasury put forward was that these two eminent and able men were so thoroughly dishonest that if it was agreed to pay them a fixed salary they would not do the work. He did not believe it of them, and protest ought to be made from this side of the House against these attacks by one Minister on another. He regarded himself as the representative of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this House when the right hon. Gentleman was not present. [At this moment the Chancellor of the Exchequer walked into the House.] He was glad to see that his leader had come back. He might say that though he differed from the right hon. Gentleman in many things, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and he were the only firm and stalwart advocates of economy in the House. It was perfectly monstrous when the House was called upon to impose fresh taxes that they should have to vote these increased payments without any demand being made for them.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): As I understand, the present mode of paying the law officers of the Crown has been attacked on the ground of economy. There are two kinds of economy, and it is conceivable that by the economy which has been suggested by some hon. Members it might not be possible to obtain the best services for these important posts.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that these two hon. and learned Gentlemen performed their duties at a less salary for two or three years?

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: No, I am not aware of that fact. I do not deny that the present system has cost the country more than the fixed salary system which existed for a short time before, but I think that system was a mistake. It has been suggested that I, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, do not look after the pence. On the contrary, I do so very carefully. Whenever there is a fee proposed over 150 guineas, that fee has to come before me, and I have frequently reduced the fees proposed. I can quite understand that I am not a popular person either with the Bar or with the clerks of my hon. and learned friends. I have endeavoured to perform this extremely difficult task by apportioning the fees to the work in each particular case, of course acting on the best advice I could obtain. I have not had any remonstrance from my hon. and learned friends in the matter, but I have endeavoured to act fairly by them and also to the Exchequer. I honestly believe that it is more in accordance with general practice, and better for the country that there should be the system of payment by fixed salary for ordinary services and payment by fees for exceptional services, such as the Venezuela Arbitration. I am, of course, speaking under a great disadvantage, not having heard the debate.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said the House now knew the truth of the matter, that although the country had had to pay £30,000 last year, that amount would have been considerably larger but for the discretion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He regarded this matter as the touchstone between the two parties. Were we going to have economy or not? The House had now its opportunity of recording its view of economy and of extravagance. The opportunity was favourable to strike a blow in favour of economy, and he hoped the Amendment would receive the support of the House.

*MR. HEMPHILL said he rose to protest against the argument put forward by the First Lord of the Treasury in this matter. The main point of the right hon. Gentleman was that the law officers of the Crown would not do their duty so well if they were paid a fixed salary as they did at present. He had too great a respect for the hon. and learned Gentlemen and their brothers in the great profession to which he had the honour to belong to suppose that they would be in any way affected by the fact that their fees were contingent or fixed. Such a statement was an aspersion on the legal profession. The skill and eloquence of the Attorney General would not be measured by the amount he was to receive for his services. Why should it be left to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to cut down the fees? There was no necessity for inquiry, because if the emoluments of the hon. and learned Gentlemen for the last ten years were taken and added together and then divided by ten the Committee would arrive very easily at the proper salary for any future occupants of the offices. He supported the Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 152 ; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 150.)

AYES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, William (Gateshead)
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith,RtHonHerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill,Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Crawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford

Grant, Corrie
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Harcourt,Rt.Hon.SirWilliam
Hardie,JKeir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Hayter,Rt.Hon.Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt.Hon.CharlesH.
Hobhouse,C.E.H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jessel,CaptainHerbertMerton
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick

O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,SirR.Threshie(Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(N'rth'nts
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White,Patrick (Meath,North)
Whiteley, George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. William M'Arthur and
Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John GeorgeAlexander
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol

Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)

Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain, JAusten(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of

Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'mlts,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliamTheodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Elliot,Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson,Rt Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Camb.
Gunter, Colonel
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'nd'y)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich.
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightsd)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,John (Kent,Faversh.)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,RtHnWalter (Bristol,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,WJH(Dumfriesshire
Middlemore,JohnThrogmort'n
Milton, Viscount
Mitchell, William
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan,DavidJ.(W'lth'mstow
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col.Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valencia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Wallace, Robert
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. S.(York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse,Rt.HnE.R.(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) said he desired to call attention to the item referring to the staff of the Solicitor to the Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions. He found there were no less than twenty clerks in the Department, and of that number six were either pluralists or receiving salaries personal to the present holders of the position. Such a practice was a most objectionable one. There were three assistant solicitors at a salary of £600, rising by £25 a year to £800, and out of those three one was also Assistant King's Proctor, and received from that position an additional £1,000. A footnote in the Estimate said that that salary would be reconsidered when a vacancy arose, but notwithstanding the footnote, that amount constantly appeared in the Estimates, and there was no real attempt at economy in filling up the position. He complained that there was an entirely new office appearing in the Estimates—the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions. That Gentleman received £600 a year, rising by £25 a year to £800, and he thought the Committee was justified in asking the reason for such an additional servant to the public, and such an additional increase in the Estimates; there was already an Assistant King's Proctor, whom most people would consider was rather an overpaid official. Why could not he have taken this particular work? The Director of Public Prosecutions was also King's Proctor, and if one gentleman could fill both those offices, why could not the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions also be the Assistant King's Proctor? He could only come to the conclusion that the new office had been created simply for the purpose of giving some first-class clerk an increase of salary. Out of the five first-class clerks three were starred as receiving additional payments. The practice was a very dangerous and obnoxious one, as under it a great many Votes had to be gone through to ascertain how much salary an official really received. Under the law courts branch a gentleman, called the principal, had a salary of £700, rising by £25 a year to a maximum of £850. But that official actually received a salary of £1,200 a year, £350 of which was personal to the present holder of the office. These personal payments should be thoroughly investigated, and a distinct pledge given that that particular salary would be considerably reduced. A note appended to the Vote stated that the permanent staff of clerks and messengers was in process of abolition as vacancies arose. That was probably a very reasonable thing to do, as what were really wanted were solicitors' clerks and not permanent civil servants. But although the Vote said the permanent staff was in process of abolition the number was not diminished. In the interests of economy these matters should be gone carefully into. The department had always been an exceedingly costly one, and the time had surely arrived when the promises of amendment should be given some effect. Another point was, that notwithstanding the increased cost of the department there was no larger amount of work done. Instead of there being any economy, any reduction of the permanent staff, or any real improvement effected, the cost of the department was much greater and the amount of work much less. The only way in which attention could be directed to this matter in order that the claims of economy might be considered was to move a reduction of the Vote whenever it came up for discussion. He therefore moved a reduction of the Vote to the amount of £600 in respect of the salary of the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item H be reduced by £600, in respect of the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions."—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the hon. Member had refered to the fact that it was stated that certain appointments were to be abolished as vacancies occurred, and complained that that statement appeared year after year. But no amount of discussion on the Vote would produce a vacancy. When a vacancy occurred a reduction would take place.

MR. GODDARD pointed out that in one department there had been a reduction of officials from six to five, but there had been a new office created.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that was a different matter altogether. With regard to the appointment of an Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, speaking with some knowledge of the way in which the work of the Director of Public Prosecutions was done, he had no hesitation in saying that the duties were most admirably performed. There was a great and increasing volume of work, and there could be no worse economy than to deny the Director of Public Prosecutions, who so well did his own share of the work, the assistance necessary efficiently to carry out the whole of the duties. He hoped under these circumstances the hon. Member would not think it necessary to divide upon his proposal.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne) desired, as this Amendment was practically a vote of censure on the Department, to refer to the Public Prosecutor's neglect in connection with election petitions. In regard to the Maidstone election petition, the Attorney General was on three occasions in the month of February asked whether he would prosecute the persons who had been reported and not granted certificates. On each occasion the reply was that the matter was under consideration. Perhaps the Attorney General would now state whether any prosecutions had taken place.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Certainly. The matter was carefully considered, and there was only one person against whom a prosecution had any chance of success. Proceedings were instituted, and the magistrates dismissed the charge. I would, however, ask the hon. Member not to press me further, because it is possible that the proceedings are not yet over.

MR. CAINE asked whether the money in respect of the attendance of the Public Prosecutor at the hearing of election petitions was included in the Vote under discussion.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I believe it is, but I cannot for the moment say under what head.

MR. CAINE, in that case, desired to refer to the neglect of the Public Prosecutor in the duty he was supposed to perform in court itself. From the evidence and proceedings in both the Maidstone and the Monmouth petitions, it appeared that the Public Prosecutor made no appearance in any way. The only reference to the Public Prosecutor in connection with the Monmouth petition was in the closing words of the shorthand writer's report—

> "Mr. David: I have an application to make on behalf of the Public Prosecutor, and that is, that your Lordships will make the costs of his appearing here a portion of the costs of the petition.
>
> "Mr. Justice Kennedy: No. I do not think there is any special case upon which to make the respondent pay the costs of the Public Prosecutor.
>
> Mr. David: He was bound to come, my Lord.
>
> Mr. Justice Kennedy: And you have performed a public function for which the public fund rewards you."

That reward from public funds was contained in the Vote before the Committee. There were certain scandalous cases in connection with the Monmouth petition which in his (the speaker)'s judgment, ought to have been noticed at the time by the Public Prosecutor or his representative, and in respect of which the judges should have been pressed for a conviction. There was the case of Thomas Icke, who was paid for work, it being intended that he should vote, while being paid by and in the employ of the respondent. In regard to this matter, Mr. Justice Kennedy said that it was carried out in a "most discreditable" way. It was planned and carried out in a dishonourable manner, and the counsel for the defence said it was impossible to ask relief. Yet this Thomas Icke asked relief and obtained his certificate without any protest on the part of the Public Prosecutor, or any application that he should be prosecuted. Then there was the very bad case of Mr. Cleaver, in regard to which Mr. Justice Kennedy said—

> "Now under these circumstances it is impossible for us, we feel, to come to any conclusion except that to which we do come, and further, of course, with regard to Mr. Cleaver there is independently on his part a violation, which, in terms, is more flagrant still, of the Act which I have read, for which he must be responsible—the publication of that document, which he admits, and which is full of that which one can only say is not merited as an accusation—I mean it rests upon nothing more than fantastic inference and imaginings, for which there was really no sound basis at all, but which were put together in a form likely to damage, and intended to damage, the candidate to whom Mr. Cleaver was referring. Under those circumstances it seems to us we have only on the grounds that I have said to declare that this petition must succeed, and unseat the present sitting member.

When this Mr. Cleaver applied for relief the Public Prosecutor made no appearance; nor did he apply either for a prosecution or the suspension of the certificate. But the worst case of all was that of Dr. Rutherfoord Harris, in regard to which Mr. Justice Kennedy said—

> "Then comes the remaining question, and that is the violations, as alleged, of the Act of 1895. Now with regard to that, we have considered it, I need not say, very carefully indeed, and I do not propose here to lay down general principles in stating the conclusions at which we have arrived, but to deal with the case, in short, upon the particular circumstances and upon the particular documents which are in evidence before us. . . . Now in this case we have come to the conclusion that we cannot exonerate Dr. Rutherfoord Harris. It is our opinion that there has been by him a violation of this statute in the statements which he made, and which he published for the purpose of affecting the return. We agree that on the facts before us Mr. Spicer has himself and his supporters to thank to some extent for the attacks to which Dr. Rutherfoord Harris gave expression."

and so on. The conclusion was that this act of Dr. Rutherfoord Harris was sufficient to unseat him and to prevent him standing again for the constituency. But when Dr. Rutherfoord Harris applied for relief the Public Prosecutor, as in the other cases, made no appearance, used no arguments, and asked for no prosecution. The conduct of the whole election was a scandal and a disgrace to Dr. Rutherfoord Harris, who ought certainly to have been scheduled without any relief, and if the Public Prosecutor had done his duty he would, at any rate, have made application before the Judge that such a course should be taken. The result of this neglect of duty was that men were becoming more and more shameless in electioneering, and were indulging more and more in corrupt practices which poor men could not follow. These men—Mr. Barker at Maidstone, and Dr. Rutherfoord Harris at Monmouth—went down to the new elections which were the result of their own misconduct, canvassing those who had been under their corrupt influence, and persuading them to record their votes on the strength of the old promises. Members had now an opportunity of recording a protest against the shortcomings of the Public Prosecutor and the default which he had committed in regard to these and many other election petitions. It was the duty of that official to protect Members of Parliament and the public generally against these corrupt men, who demoralised constituencies and were the common enemies of both sides of politics. The time was coming when, in consequence of this neglect of the Public Prosecutor, none but millionaires, who were the very last men who should become Members of this House, would be able to become candidates, and he therefore trusted that the Committee would take advantage of this Vote to record a strong protest in the matter.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: I think the Committee are indebted to my hon. friend for having raised this question so far as it relates to election petitions. I think perhaps it would not be too much to say that the Corrupt Practices Act of 1880 has not been carried out to the extent and in the manner intended by Parliament. A great many of its most beneficial provisions have been whittled away—certainly not in the interests of the purity of elections. On this particular point I want to ask the Attorney General what he regards to be the duty of the Public Prosecutor with reference to these apparently useless and abortive appearances of counsel at the hearing of election petitions. So far as the public are concerned, I regard this money as absolutely thrown away. It is made the occasion for giving a certain number of fees to the no doubt very estimable junior barristers who appear on behalf of the Public Prosecutor, but what they do we do not know, and we have no details as to what it costs them to do it. I think Parliament intended, as the wording of the Act indicates, that the Public Prosecutor should appear before the Election Commissioners to represent the interests of the general public and to prevent what I observe is fast becoming the practice in these election petitions. Counsel appearing for the sitting Member are astute enough to know from the particulars delivered, and from the opening speech of counsel for the petitioner, whether one particular case is bound to be proved, and, if it is proved, that the seat is bound to be lost. This is admitted, and the inquiry closes. I do not blame counsel for trying to bring the case to a close as rapidly as possible, but they thus prevent the disclosure of other acts which have been alleged, and also prevent the possibility of the issue of a Commission under the Act of 1885 to inquire into the corrupt practices in the constituency. I am satisfied that in many cases if the Public Prosecutor had appealed to the court not to allow what are practically compromises at the beginning of a case, that if he had appealed to the court not to allow the allegations to be hushed up, but to insist that the case should be fought out, the judges would have reported in favour of a Commission, and a Commission would have been issued. In the Cockermouth election petition the judges refused at once to allow the case to be stopped. They insisted upon a full and proper hearing, and it was due to the sitting Member that they should do so. In my judgment that hon. Member was unfairly and improperly attacked. But was there any appearance on behalf of the Public Prosecutor? If he was there simply as an ornament to the court, all I can say is that it is not the business of the House of Commons to pay for such a purpose. Having regard to the very important nature of these inquiries, the public have a right to be properly represented. The Director of Public Prosecutions is rather a new-fangled term; I should prefer the old-fashioned phrase, "the Attorney General," but, whichever it is, he ought to appear in these cases on behalf of the public, in order to see that justice is done, that the Act of Parliament is fairly carried out, and that every possible attempt is made to put an end to corrupt practices, of the prevalence of which the fewness of petitions is no indication. I believe that in certain practices which have been declared to be legal more money is spent at the present day in what is practically corruption than at the time when these petitions were fought out before Parliamentary Committees of this House, and Commissions were issued which resulted in the disfranchisement of the constituency concerned. There are constituencies which are known to be corrupt; their politics are known to be marketable, but they escape because of the very poor machinery which we have for dealing with these matters. I appeal to the Attorney General to give an undertaking that he will himself look into the matter and insist that there should be effective representation at these inquiries.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that he is not more anxious than I am that in every case of this kind, so far as it is possible for a public official to prevent the hushing up of what would be a public scandal, every possible step should be taken for that purpose. I think if the right hon. Gentleman will but look a little into the history of these cases he will see that his observation with regard to the gentleman who appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions is hardly justified. Take the Maidstone case itself. So far from his being a nonentity, the proceedings will show that a great part certainly of one day, and I think rather more than one day, was occupied by an effective examination and cross-examination by the gentleman who appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions. When the case was evidently about to come to an end, so far as the parties to the litigation were concerned, he intervened to examine and cross-examine, and he did all that it was possible for man to do to bring the facts to the knowledge of the court.

Mr. CAINE: It is a pity he was not sent to Monmouth.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: What was there for him to do at Monmouth? A great part of the hon. Member's speech seemed to be intended for consumption at Monmouth rather than by this Committee.

Mr. CAINE: That is a most improper remark.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: The observations made by the hon. Gentleman, which were intended——

Mr. CAINE: I wish to ask, Sir, if it is in order for the Attorney General to make the remark that I was bringing this matter forward for an ulterior purpose. It is a most improper remark.

*The CHAIRMAN: I do not know that there is anything improper in it.

Mr. CAINE: As far as I recollect, he said that I was bringing this matter forward with a view to consumption at Monmouth rather than for consumption by this Committee.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: What I said was that a great part of the hon. Member's speech seemed to be intended for consumption at Monmouth. If the hon. Member assures me that he was not thinking of Monmouth, of course I will accept his statement.

Mr. CAINE: Certainly I was not. I was thinking of this House, and this House alone.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: Very well; I accept the hon. Member's statement. In regard to the appearance of the representative of the Director of Public Prosecutions at the hearing of these petitions, of course on some occasions there is no real need for the active intervention of the Director of Public Prosecutions. If he thinks a further examination or cross-examination may do good, he intervenes. It is no use for him to get up merely to occupy the time if he feels that he has not got the materials to enable him to render the court any assistance. But that really forms a part of a very large question, to which I should like to direct the attention of the right hon. Gentleman who has addressed me on this point. If the Director of Public Prosecutions is to exercise an effective control over every election petition, it would be necessary that in every case he should go to the very large expense of getting up the whole of the case from the point of view of the public. Everyone who has had the misfortune to be a party to an election petition, or who has been professionally engaged in one, knows how very expensive these petitions are. I ask the Committee in all seriousness whether it would be tolerated that there should appear year after year in the Estimates a sum to defray the very large expenditure which most certainly would be incurred if in every election petition the case were got up in such a way.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he had not the slightest intention of conveying the idea that that should be done. His idea was that there should be an effective intervention of the Attorney General at the hearing of the case, and that that was what the Act of Parliament intended.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Certainly; I quite appreciate what the right hon. Gentleman said, but I think he will see that to secure a more effective intervention it is absolutely necessary that there should be proper materials behind it. Those materials cannot be secured without the case having been got up in the regular way. All the Director of Public Prosecutions can do, unless the case has been prepared as it would be for one of the parties to the litigation, is to be vigilant and to cross-examine on such material as appears, or on such information as may reach him, and that is the duty which the gentleman who has represented the Director of Public Prosecutions on these occasions has discharged. With regard to the cases in which it is said that matters were hushed up, it must be remembered that in the case of those election petitions the petitioner was anxious to achieve the object of unseating the respondent. Naturally both those gentlemen are anxious not to incur any more expense than is unavoidably thrown upon them by the discharge of their functions as the petitioner and the respondent, and if it appears to them that the seat must go, neither of them is willing to take part in the inquiry from the public point of view. They are not anxious to do that, and they will only assist in so far as their object is served. So far as the recent cases are concerned, I think that no charge can be made against the Director of Public Prosecutions that there has been any remissness on the part of his representative, and there has not been any hushing up, for he has done everything he could in the matter. The hon. Gentleman who brought forward this subject complained very much of the Director of Public Prosecutions for not objecting to the granting of certificates of indemnity to certain witnesses, but I must call the attention of the hon. Member for Camborne to the fact that if a witness in the opinion of the court has made a full disclosure, he is entitled to his certificate of indemnity, and what a ridiculous figure the gentleman representing the Public Prosecutor would cut if he objected, when the judge had only obeyed the law. If the representative of the Public Prosecutor has any reason to believe that a witness has not made a full disclosure, the attention of the court would be called to the fact; but if the witness has made a full disclosure, the court must comply with the terms of the law, and I do not understand why the hon. Member for Camborne has attacked the Public Prosecutor in this respect.

The hon. Member said a great deal about the recent inquiry in connection with the Monmouth Boroughs election. I desire just to recall the attention of the Committee to the nature of that inquiry, Mr. Justice Kennedy at the beginning of his judgment—I am quoting from the report in *The Times* newspaper—said there was no allegation of any corrupt practices, but only of certain illegal practices, for which the agent of Dr. Rutherfoord Harris was to blame, and not himself. On these various grounds, although there were no allegations whatever of corrupt practices, the election was declared to be void. I really do not understand how it can be said in connection with the Monmouth petition that there was the slightest neglect of duty on the part of the Public Prosecutor. What the hon. Member thinks the Public Prosecutor should have done which he did not do I really cannot understand. I assure the Committee that in connection with the Monmouth Boroughs petition there really is not the slightest ground for the attacks which have been made upon the action of the Public Prosecutor.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said there were several items which required the attention of the Committee before this Vote was passed. They had just heard from the Attorney General a commendation of the work done by the Director of Public Prosecutions. All that he could say was that in the country, at any rate, they failed to see where this particular gentleman earned the salary they were now asked to vote. There were complaints constantly and continuously that the Director of Public Prosecutions was absent from cases when he ought to be present in connection with work which no other private individual could undertake. They were now asked to vote a sum of £2,500 for this particular gentleman's salary, and he had been trying to find out what work this official did. He found that this gentleman appeared on this Vote as solicitor to the King's Proctor and Director of Public Prosecutions. As far as he had been able to discover, he found that the same gentleman also held the following offices:—Solicitor to the Admiralty, the Charity Commission, the Home Office, the Treasury, the War Office, and the Office of Works. It appeared to him that he held so many offices that he was not able to do the work satisfactorily of any of them, and they were now asked to appoint a new official at £600 a year at a time when they were not satisfied that the present occupant of the office was doing the work satisfactorily. He would like to ask the Attorney General whether he could lay on the Table a Return of the number of cases in which this gentleman had interfered, and the success or otherwise of his interference. He wished to point out that a note in the Estimates stated that the permanent staff of clerks and messengers was under process of abolition as vacancies arose. That showed there were clerks and messengers whose services were not required, and who were kicking their heels in those offices with nothing to do, and it was quite time that they rre lieved that department of encumbrances of that kind in the interests of economy. He found that an increase of ten such clerks was asked for in another department, at salaries rising to £1,500 a year. In one department they had too many clerks and messengers, while in another department they were asked to vote ten new men. He never knew any commercial firm manage its business in that way. If one department had idle clerks and messengers, it could transfer them to another department which required them. He hoped the House would accept this Amendment.

Major RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he supported the hon. Member for Camborne when he brought the question of the Maidstone election before the House, and if he took a division upon this question he proposed to follow him into the lobby. He did not think the House had any idea of the extraordinary way in which such practices had flourished. As for the Public Prosecutor, he supposed that he was not to blame in the matter, although he failed to see how the Director of Public Prosecutions had justified his position in reference to these election petitions.

Mr. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.) said he was afraid he would not be able to vote with his hon. friends on this occasion, for, in his opinion, the learned gentleman who represented the Public Prosecutor at the hearing of the Monmouth petition not only did his duty, but he would have advised a prosecution if, in his judgment, the evidence had justified it. He did not think for a moment that that gentleman either misconducted himself in the discharge of his duty, or that he was incompetent to do so. He was not holding a brief for a professional brother, but having heard these attacks made upon a gentleman whom he knew, he thought it would be unfair and improper to allow the opportunity to pass without raising his voice in his defence. Some hon. Members might be under the impression that, because the learned counsel was nominated by the Attorney General, he had probably nominated one of his own political side. That was a mistake, for the gentleman alluded to was a Liberal in politics, and had stood as the Liberal candidate for a constituency. He had a fairly large practice, and he had had many years experience, and it could not be suggested that either on the ground of incompetency or of political bias he had failed to perform his duty. No doubt this learned gentleman felt that under the circumstances it would have been impossible to secure a conviction of the men charged with corruption, and for that reason he did not recommend a prosecution. He agreed himself with every word that had been said by hon. Members as to the desirability of putting down corruption, and it did seem strange that when cases of corruption similar to that which took place at Maidstone, and apparently at Monmouth also, some public prosecution did not follow. He agreed as to the desirability of putting an end to corruption, but he felt that he could not allow a learned friend of his, who had discharged his duty with perfect honour and competence, to be attacked without raising his voice on his behalf.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton stated, in a most emphatic manner, that he regarded the amount which the House voted yearly for the Public Prosecutor to be so much money absolutely wasted.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: I am bound to correct that statement. I think the Vote for the Public Prosecutor is money well earned. The only objection I raise is that I do not think the country gets full value for the attendance of representatives at election petitions. Every other item in the Vote meets with my support.

MR. CREMER said he took down the words of the right hon. Gentleman, and what he stated was, "That it was money thrown away." If he had misunderstood the right hon. Gentleman he would withdraw his assertion and apologise. The Attorney General had stated that the Public Prosecutor could not waste his time in raking up evidence for the purpose of prosecutions under the Corrupt Practices Act, and he had asserted that the Public Prosecutor always did his duty when occasion arose. He happened to have been the victim of the negligence of the Public Prosecutor, because in an election petition in which he was immediately concerned the judges declined to give certificates of indemnity to three of the electors, and their names were reported to the Government of the day. No prosecution ever took place, and no attempt was made to punish those men for the offence which they were found guilty of. Where was the Public Prosecutor in that instance?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Upon what occasion was that?

MR. CREMER said it was an election petition in 1895 in which two judges differed, and they delivered judgment to the effect that they were unable to agree as to whether the Member in question had been duly returned as a Member of this House, and notwithstanding that extraordinary verdict, that Member sat in this House and voted for five years, although two judges occupied themselves for a fortnight trying to ascertain whether he had been duly elected or not.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That question does not seem to have any bearing upon this Vote.

MR. CREMER said he was only quoting it as a case in point, and he hoped the Attorney General would bear it in mind. On one of the recent petitions one of the judges stated that the Corrupt Practices Act had been practically frittered away, and that there was very little of it left at the present moment. He hoped his hon. friend would go to a division, so that the members of the Committee present might mark their disapproval of the frittering away of this Act when petitions were brought forward.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: With regard to the case of 1895 which has been referred to, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the facts of the case, which is rather ancient history, to be able to give an opinion.

MR. CREMER said they were cases of personation.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I do not know what the facts are, and it is impossible to go into a case of that kind which took place years ago and which is hardly relevant to the Vote of the present year. I desire to say a word or two in reference to what was said by the hon. Member for Halifax with regard to the Public Prosecutor. He stated that the Director of Public Prosecutions neglected his work, and that a Return should be made as to the amount of work done each year. It is a great pity that the hon. Member did not take the trouble to look at his Parliamentary Papers before making a charge of this kind against a most meritorious public servant. If the hon. Member looks at his Parliamentary Paper he will find that a most elaborate Return was presented in July, 1900, of the work done by the Public Prosecutor in the preceding year, and I think it is a little hard on a gentleman occupying a responsible position that a statement of this kind should be made.

MR. WHITLEY said that, not being a Member of the House at the time, he could only speak from the evidence given to the public outside as to the result of the work of this department.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said no doubt three witnesses were reported by the judges in the case alluded to as guilty of impersonation, and yet they were not prosecuted. A charge might be made against an individual, and when the papers were submitted to counsel he might advise his client that there was not sufficient evidence upon which to proceed. In 1895 in an election where he was the defeated candidate the returning officer himself prosecuted one of the electors for personation, but the prosecution was quashed at the Assizes, and there was not a *prima facie* case made out. In another case in which he was interested, the Liberal Association prosecuted a man for an offence under the Corrupt Practices Act, again without any satisfactory result. It by no means followed that because election judges said a person should be prosecuted that the Public Prosecutor was able to present the case for trial. He had looked at the evidence himself, and the evidence which was available at the hearing was not always available for presentation to the Public Prosecutor. [The SOLICITOR GENERAL made a motion of assent.] He wished the Attorney General to consider whether something could not be done to amend the procedure in connection with election petitions. At the trial of election petitions it was the practice to appoint a barrister to watch the case on behalf of the Public Prosecutor, but no one was assigned to him to assist in the work. He thought that was putting the cart before the horse, because everybody knew perfectly well that there was often evidence available which neither party was interested in presenting to the judges, and therefore, there ought to be a third party who, in the interest of the public, should see to it that the whole of the evidence available was presented to the court. The barrister sent down to represent the Public Prosecutor could take no active part in the proceedings until the cases of petitioner and the respondent had been heard to an end, and then if he asked the judges to declare that he ought to have a solicitor assigned to him in order to take the matter in hand, there was practically no time whatever in which the inquiry could be made and the evidence was not always available. He felt sorry that he had to appear for once as an advocate of spending more money, but he entirely agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton that the money which had been spent on public prosecutions in connection with election petitions, mainly for the reason he had given, had been thrown away. Either the barrister sent down ought to be provided with the necessary assistance to make inquiries, and to ascertain what had gone on during the election, or he had better not be sent down at all. He ventured to suggest to the Attorney General that that was the right course to take. He was not sure whether he would be in order in calling attention to another matter on this Vote, namely, the Returns presented to this House in regard to election petitions. At the present time an election petition——

*THE CHAIRMAN: We are now discussing the salary of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the hon. Member should confine himself to that.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said if he was allowed to state his point he was not sure but that it would appear that he was right in bringing it forward now. When these Returns were presented there should also be added to them the petition itself and the particulars which were filed with the petition, because the evidence without the petition and the particulars was practically useless even to a trained lawyer, and certainly of no use whatever to ordinary people. He thought he was right in asking that that should be considered.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said his reason for supporting the reduction of the Vote was that he desired to stimulate the cause of economy in this House. The office of Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions was a new office, and it was at the present time a wholly unnecessary one to create. The gravamen and gist of the charge in connection with this Vote, and with other Votes with which they would have to deal hereafter, was that there was a vast number of pluralists —clerks and professional gentlemen —who were receiving salaries under different heads, and in consequence of the way the accounts were rendered the Committee were prevented from arriving at a true appreciation of the state of affairs. There was one man who received a salary under six different heads, and it was quite a Chinese puzzle to find out from the accounts in such cases what the total emoluments of officials amounted to. The House would never be able to secure economy and control expenditure in the different departments unless it appeared on the face of the accounts what the officials, clerks, and legal gentlemen received. The note which professed to explain the Vote was almost a farce. It showed that one office had been abolished this year, and another created. He believed that the gentleman who held the old office had been appointed to the new one at a larger salary. Notwithstanding the admission in the note that there were offices which were unnecessary, the total Vote was £500 more this year than in the past year. That was the way the Government practiced economy. He asked the Attorney General whether it was not possible to state the accounts in such a manner as to show distinctly what each individual received in his various capacities.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he should like to ask one or two questions with regard to the salary of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Director of Public Prosecutions held the offices of Solicitor to the Admiralty, the Charity Commission, the Home Office, the Treasury, the War Office, and the Works Commission, in addition to the three offices enumerated in the Vote. Did he get anything in respect of these offices in addition to the £2,500 he got as Director of Public Prosecutions? Had he charged fees to these various Departments in respect of work done? It must be perfectly obvious to anybody who knew the delicate character of the work undertaken by the Director of Public Prosecutions that he could not discharge the functions of the office properly if he was solicitor to all these different Departments. The work of Director of Public Prosecutions was a purely personal one. He ought not to depute the work to any clerks in his office, however skilful they might be. It required considerable judgment and training. No man who properly discharged the functions of all these offices could do the work at the same time of Director of Public Prosecutions. It was not a case of charging him with dereliction of duty. They knew how perfunctorily the work was done in connection with election petitions. Nobody suggested that the gentleman who represented the Public Prosecutor on these occasions did anything dishonourable, or anything which showed incompetency on his part, but one must take into account the amount of material at his disposal. One would like to see the sort of brief he had on these occasions. There was no attempt to have any sort of inquiry. He was there holding a watching brief, which was no brief at all.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: I do not think it is necessary for me to travel over the ground already traversed by the Attorney General with regard to the appointment of counsel to represent the Crown in the Monmouth election petition. The hon. and learned Member has asked a question as to the Treasury Solicitor. The Treasury Solicitor gets a salary of £2,500 a year. That salary covers all the departments, and therefore the complaint made that this official is paid under various heads, and that he receives various salaries is quite an erroneous one.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: I did not specify any one.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: He is the only one I can find in this Vote that would come under that head. It is quite true that the Treasury Solicitor is also Public Prosecutor—Director of Public Prosecutions. He gets no official salary for that, nor for any of the other offices which have been mentioned. The hon. and learned Member says it is impossible for one individual to perform all these offices. Well, of course, the only way he can perform all these offices is by engaging a proper staff, and it is for that reason it became necessary, in view of the increase in the business of the Public Prosecutor, to appoint an Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, and that is the office which is objected to, and on which a division is proposed to be taken. Being brought a good deal into contact with the Director of Public Prosecutions in the various departments he has to preside over, and with reference to which he has to be consulted, all I can say is that I have never met a more efficient officer in any department than the present holder of these various offices, who receives a salary of £2,500. So far from being overpaid, he is inadequately paid, and so far from having too much assistance, I think he has too little assistance. I think if you take away the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions you will inflict great injury on the public service and public business, because the position of Director of Public Prosecutions is one of vast importance, and one which is daily calling for more attention on the part of the official who holds it.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) said that if an officer were appointed for each of the different offices the money would be distributed, and that would be better than giving it all to one man, who held all the offices, and allowing him to appoint his own staff.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 102; Noes, 147. (Division List No. 151.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Tully, Jasper
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Mooney, John J.
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)

Mr. Lloyd-George.

Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh'e
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn. C R. (Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, J A (Glam'gan, Gower)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Goddard and Mr. Caine.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bowles, T Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flower, Ernest
Forster Henry William
Garfit, William
Gordon, Maj. E.-(T'w'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lrd G. (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.)
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Middlemore, John T.
Milton, Viscount
Mitchell, William
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrison, James Archibald
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomsom
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William George
Wharton, Rt. Hn. J. Lloyd
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £22,504, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st

day of March, 1902, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said that a protest ought to be made against this Vote for payments to be made to the Sheriffs of England and Wales for the expenses incurred in providing lodgings for the Judges on circuit and other outlays. This year it was larger than last year by £800. He would give the amounts for the last five years, in order to show that this item was, like the salaries of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, mounting up by leaps and bounds. In 1897-98 it was £13,580, in 1898-99, £19,850, in 1899-1900, £20,000, and last year it was £21,200. This year the estimate was £22,000. The Committee would see that in the very short space of four years this item alone had increased by £8,150, or 60 per cent. If the other Votes were increased in the same proportion it was no wonder that the expenditure had leaped up of late years from 100 millions to 200 millions. The sheriffs of the country had had no extra expenses of late; in fact, seeing that they had been relieved of their rates on agricultural rent they ought to have provided their services and performed their duties for a less amount than formerly. He asked the Government whether anything could be done to stop this tremendous increase. What was the reason of it? Was there greater luxury in entertaining the judges, or was there a greater number of judges, or had they to travel greater distances than formerly? It was significant of the general management of the finances of the country, and something should really be said about this staggering increase. He was not discussing the matter in any carping spirit, but that was one of the many increases which frequently appeared on the Estimates. There was no use in objecting to the Estimates *en bloc*; they should object to them in detail, and unless they lopped off unnecessary increases wherever they appeared they would not be able to do any good. At the present juncture the Committee ought to set itself with stern resolve to decrease unnecessary expenditure. He would not move a reduction, because a satisfactory explanation might be forthcoming; but if it were not, he hoped an Amendment would be moved, and he would support it.

MR. CALDWELL said that the Scotch Members had every reason to object to an item of this kind, because there was no corresponding item on the Scotch Estimates. In Scotland judges received a fixed salary, which included expenses on circuit, which he thought was a much better system than the English system. A judge on circuit was supposed to represent the Sovereign, and the sheriff had to provide him with a retinue and to surround him with pomp and ceremony even when there was no business. In fact, the less the business the greater the expense, because there was more time for dining and amusement. The sheriff was always a man of some standing and influence, and he accepted the position as being one of influence. The reason why the expenses went up from year to year was because each man wanted to do the thing a little better than his neighbour. The money came out of the Imperial purse; there was no check on it, and as long as it could be got without complaint the amount would go on increasing year by year. Each sheriff wanted champagne of a better brand than his predecessor, and he wanted a greater number of people invited to dine with the judge. They talked of economy, but there was no case, next to that of the salaries of the Attorney General and Solicitor General, which more needed economy than this. There was no reason why a judge on circuit could not live at a hotel without much expense. His dignity would be as great one way as the other. The days when it was thought expedient to impress the working classes with the dignity of a judge, and to strike terror into the minds of the common people, were gone, and the idea that a judge on circuit represented the Sovereign and must have a great retinue was a relic of olden times. Formerly in Scotland judges had a circuit allowance, but they received a certain sum in addition to their salaries to cover everything, and at present every judge in Scotland paid his own expenses. There was no parallel payment in the case of Scotland, and the

Scotch Members objected to have an item on the Imperial Estimates which belonged to England alone. It was time the whole subject was reconsidered with a view to giving judges a certain allowance for circuit expenses.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am sure there is one subject in which the hon. Member who has just spoken will agree with me, and that is that everything is better managed in Scotland than in England. Without entering on the topics to which the hon. Member has referred, I think everyone will agree that there must be some expense attaching to the duties of sheriff. The office has always cost a great deal of money to those who have held it. A great many duties are imposed on sheriffs. They have to provide lodgings for the judges, to fit up the courts, and discharge various other functions. There are also various expenses connected with the reception of the judges, which, until 1898, the sheriffs bore out of their own pockets. In that year a grant of £6,000 was made towards reimbursing them for expenses incurred for public purposes. As regards the increase which is alleged to have taken place during the last few years, it has not been a great deal; I think it is only £800 on the whole Vote. I cannot undertake to enter into every detail, and I submit it is perfectly reasonable that a grant should be made to the sheriffs for these expenses, which have not been shown to be excessive.

MR. GODDARD said he thought the explanation of the Attorney General very inadequate. The hon. and learned Member had failed to appreciate the figures laid before the Committee. The item was increasing yearly, and that was the case hon. Members made against it. How in the name of reason could they attempt anything like economy when such items were not only allowed to recur, but increased yearly? The Attorney General had missed the point. He said that the sheriffs had always met those expenses, but that was no reason why the amount should grow year by year. The Estimates were growing, and, in face of the serious financial position which the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented to the country, it behoved every hon. Member to look into the Estimates with a view to cutting them down. That was the bounden duty of the House of Commons, especially at such a critical financial time as the present. The figures presented to the Committee showed that it was not a question of an increase of £800 last year: it was a increase of £8,000 in five years; and although the Attorney General might say that an increase of £800 was paltry, yet, when the increase amounted to £8,000 in five years, it was a very serious matter which ought to be checked. No necessity had been shown for the increased expenditure they were asked to vote, and he would move that the £800 increase should be struck off. There was one item in the Vote regarding which no explanation whatever had been given. It was a sum of £100 which appeared under the following peculiar heading: "Rewards in Respect of Extraordinary Exertions in the Furtherance of Justice." What were the rewards for, and who conferred them? Was the sum really used, or was it returned to the Treasury? Although it was only £100 they ought to have an explanation of it.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: These are rewards made on the recommendations of the judges for services rendered in the interests of justice.

MR. GODDARD said he was pleased to have elicited that information, and he believed it was the first time it was given. As the general answer had been unsatisfactory he thought the right course was to move to reduce the Vote by £800.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Repayments to Sheriffs' Expenses) be reduced by £800"—(*Mr. Goddard.*)

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said that the Attorney General had practically given no information whatever about the Vote. As the matter affected the administration of the law in England the Attorney General might not have been intimately acquainted with the details of local administration, but the Solicitor General, who had a very wide experience in Ireland, might be able to give the information desired by the Committee. It was extremely gratifying to find that the Committee was in the humour to effect economy, and he congratulated the Committee on the zeal they had shown in that direction. As an Irish Member he might be permitted to point out what he considered to be a grievance on English taxpayers. The Vote worked out at an average of £500 for each sheriff, whereas in Ireland the sheriff's expenses averaged only £150 a year. He did not say it was enough, but still if the Irish sheriffs did their work for £150 he did not see why the English sheriffs should get £500. Of course the duties of sheriffs were extremely important. They were charged with the care of the judges, in seeing that the majesty of the law was upheld, and in days gone by it used to be the habit to spend large sums of money in connection with assizes and in receiving and entertaining the judges. He was informed that the large increase in the Vote was mainly due to the administration of the present Government, and that it dated practically from 1898. The Attorney General made one statement which rather surprised him. He said that the sheriffs were responsible for fitting up the courts in England. In Ireland the courts were fitted up by the county councils, although when the Local Government Act for Ireland was passed they were told that they were not accepting any greater responsibility than county councils in England. The question was of considerable importance, and the Committee were entitled to have some further information on the subject, otherwise they would have to divide.

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.) said that the Attorney General had stated that he was not prepared to give details regarding the Vote, but it seemed to him that details were what the Committee required. It was only by having details that the Committee would be able to exercise an effective control over the rapidly increasing expenditure of the country. He desired to know if the £22,000 were expended in an equal grant to each sheriff or given in proportion to the private means of each sheriff.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: It is given in accordance with the expenditure.

MR. SOAMES said he was glad to have elicited even that information. But the Committee did not know why the expenditure had increased by 60 per cent. in four years.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): As my hon. and learned friend has explained, the increase as compared with the expenditure four years ago is due to the change of policy begun in 1898. As my hon. and learned friend has already said, it was felt that it was not prudent or right, in view of the very heavy expense incurred, to throw on private individuals these public charges, and accordingly an increase in the Vote was made in order to repay the sheriffs certain expenses which they necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties. A scale was laid down which, as my hon. and learned friend has said, varied in proportion to the sheriff in question, and in accordance the expenditure necessarily incurred by with the length of time the assizes lasted. The great bulk of the Vote is usual expenditure, always borne upon it, with the one addition I have mentioned. Hon. Members ask why the Estimate is £800 more this year than last. That is in part a matter of account. Certain items of receipt which previously were not paid into the Exchequer, but which were intercepted—properly so, of course—by the sheriffs are now paid into the Exchequer, and the whole of the authorised expenditure is paid out of the Vote. In addition to that, I ought to point out to the Committee that the sum taken last year was too small, and the expenditure was in excess of the sum voted. Under these circumstances we thought it expedient to take a larger sum this year in order that we might not be face to face with a similar situation next year.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked if the sums now paid direct to the Treasury appeared under any head.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said the hon. Member could not expect to find such a payment to the Exchequer as an appropriation in aid. He assumed that the principal charge under the Vote was to provide lodgings for the judges, but he found on page 236 of the Estimates that the judges themselves were allowed £9,700 for travelling expenses and allowances.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The £22,000 in the Vote is for providing the judges with lodgings; the allowance to the judges is for other expenses.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that the £9,700 was not part of the Vote for £22,000, and therefore fifteen judges cost £31,700 for travelling and lodging, which was at the rate of £2,000 a judge, in addition to the very large salary, not too large in his opinion, which each judge received. He thought the method of paying first of all a permanent salary, and then an extra allowance, was becoming a little abused. The Committee did not know whether the payments were large or small, as they had no details with regard to them. His opinion was that judges ought to pay their own travelling expenses, though it was quite right, if the sheriffs were bound to provide lodging for them, that they should be recouped. With regard to all such allowances, it was not adequate information to put down a lump sum and in some cases forbear to give absolutely necessary details for the discussion of the Vote. Although he was not disposed to vote against the item, he thought the Government should treat the Committee a little less cavalierly, and should not so jealously keep information to themselves. The Secretary to the Treasury would do well if he could to give the average cost of a judge's lodgings and other details, in order that the Committee might be able to decide whether the sum asked for was adequate.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The cost of providing lodgings for the judges is borne by the sheriffs, and is repaid to them. The rest of the Vote is made up of various other charges.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER asked whether the large sum now under the consideration of the Committee did not arise in the main owing to the increase of the number of assizes in certain counties from two to four in the year. Originally the sheriffs paid all expenses themselves, but where the number of assizes were increased he believed the sheriffs received some assistance towards the additional expense. There was no unpaid office which necessitated a higher expenditure than that of sheriff, and he was a happy man who got through his year of office at an expenditure of under four figures. As to the allowances to judges, he would put it to the Secretary to the Treasury whether originally the judges were not all paid the same salary, with an allowance for travelling which was included in the £5,000 a year. When the Chancery judges ceased to go circuit the common law judges complained that though the Chancery judges did not go circuit they had the advantage in their salaries of the sum allowed for travelling expenses, and he would like to know whether the Treasury did not then substitute a certain allowance for the judge's travelling expenses, a sum which varied according to the number of days he was absent from London? He thought that was an unwise and extravagant arrangement, and he should be glad if they could be told that the Treasury were disposed to reconsider it.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he did not think the speech the right hon. Gentleman had just made in support of the Government——

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: I have made no speech in support of the Government. I have endeavoured simply to get at the facts. I happen to know some of the facts—I do not think the hon. Member does—but I am in absolute ignorance of what has happened since 1898. I was simply trying to get to know whether the Government is right or wrong. I have expressed my disapprobation of the present system in regard to one matter, and it is not fair to say, when I am endeavouring to elicit the facts, that I am speaking in support of the Government.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was glad to hear that explanation of the right hon. Gentleman. He had not suggested that the right hon. Gentleman was defending the allowances to the sheriffs, and he did not see that he had imputed anything that was dishonourable to the right hon. Gentleman. He accepted not merely readily, but with pleasure, his explanation on the point. These additional allowances to the sheriffs were said to be due to policy and not to any question of account. As a matter of fact these allowances in respect to the lodgings for judges were simply another dole to the landlords. Sometimes it was an agricultural grant, sometimes a land tax, and sometimes it was buried in some other form, as in the present case. There ought to be an end put to these grants-in-aid to the landlords. The position of sheriff was a position of honour, and those who took it should be prepared to pay the burden.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is not an honour they seek, it is an honour which is thrust upon them.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, no doubt, was so, but the sheriffs were taken from the commission of the peace, and these gentlemen, when they sought the honour of becoming magistrates and justices of the peace, perfectly well knew they ran the risk of being selected as sheriffs, and they should be prepared to bear the burden. He would like to know whether there was any audit of these accounts.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: Yes; there is a Treasury audit.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said his hon. friend had not mastered this subject with his usual thoroughness. It had of late been a matter of great difficulty to find persons who would serve as sheriffs. He knew of two men selected to act as sheriffs in two Welsh counties who were not on the *rota* of justices of the peace. It was very difficult to get men to serve as sheriffs, and he thought there ought to be a permanent paid official appointed to the office. The allowance to judges on circuit was £7 10s. per day, and he considered it was a fair and reasonable allowance. There were some judges in receipt of £5,000 a year who were never expected to go out of London. At one time the Chancery judges were sent on circuit, and, if he might be allowed to use the expression, "a pretty hash they made of it," and now that the Common Law judges were expected to go on circuit it was not unfair to give them this allowance.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that the allowance for judges was fixed by an Order in Council in 1878. That Order in Council provided £7 10s. a day, together with first class railway fare, but no further travelling allowance, and first-class railway fare for one clerk. In consideration of this arrangement, the judges had agreed to dispense with their second clerk when the positions became vacant, and all those persons had now been dispensed with, so that the actual result was a saving to the country of £2,000 a year. The bargain had, therefore, not been altogether unprofitable to the country. He thought the suggestion of the hon. Member for Mid Glamorgan to abandon voluntary service in the office of sheriff and appoint a permanent paid official would be more costly than the present system, with its allowance to the sheriff for expenses.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said that the grant, which had been referred to by the hon. Gentleman opposite as a dole, seemed to him to have a distinctly democratic tendency, and upon that ground he was surprised at the opposition it evoked. At the present moment, owing to the expenses entailed, the honour of taking part in the administration of justice as sheriff was confined to the rich, and a grant which enabled everyone to share the honour was democratic and very proper. Moreover, the system prior to the grant was compulsory class taxation of a very onerous kind upon a class which had not been too well able to bear such a heavy impost.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE desired to know how it was that the expenses of the sheriff were so much higher in England than in Ireland. In England they were £500 and in Ireland the same duties were performed for £150.

MR. WHITLEY said that all were agreed that the sheriffs should be reimbursed for any expenses they were put to in connection with the judges' lodgings, but there was a tendency to increase in respect of other items which ought to be checked. All that the Amendment asked was that a stop should be put to this increase, which in some cases amounted to as much as 60 per cent. in five years. He felt that that increase in the expenditure was due not to the absolutely necessary expenditure of the sheriff, but in a considerable degree to the lavish entertainment they all heard of when a judge came into their neighbourhoods.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: The hon. Member for North Wexford asked for specific information. I can only say there is no way of ascertaining, now, at all events, how it is the expenditure of the sheriffs in this country is so much higher than the expenditure in Ireland. I would like to remind the Committee that under the Sheriffs' Act all the expenditure of the sheriffs has to be taxed by the auditor appointed by the Treasury, and only such accounts as are vouched to the satisfaction of the auditor are paid.

MR. URE (Linlithgowshire) said the system of Scotland was infinitely superior to that of England, although the system of administration was identically the same. A Scotch judge when he went on circuit was expected to defray out of his salary all the incidental expenses connected with the administration of justice so far as he was personally concerned—his own travelling expenses, and his hotel bill and matters of that sort. But in England all the expenditure was thrown on the sheriff. How was it that a judge on circuit could not find good accommodation in the various towns, in the same way as a Scotch judge? Surely out of a salary of £5,000 a judge might be expected to bear the moderate charges of a hotel. He sympathised with the right hon. Member for East Wolverhampton in his opinion, and he strongly advocated the assimilation of the practice of England with that of Scotland.

*SIR JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) said that formerly the duty of providing for the dignity of the judges was thrown upon the sheriffs; it was thought to be unfair to continue the practice, and, in consequence, for many years these items had been borne by the Estimates. In the county he represented the sheriffs years ago used to provide accommodation for the judges at assizes and put them up at hotels. It was most unsatisfactory, and consequently the judges found fault with it. Permanent accommodation was then provided by this country. The sheriff paid over the sum he received by way of allowance to the county, an amount which did not cover the actual cost, and the balance was defrayed from county rate. He was entirely in accord with this particular grant to the sheriffs, and could see no reason why it should be reduced.

MR. LABOUCHERE said that although they had had a great deal of discussion on this matter the Committee had not the data upon which they could properly debate the question. He therefore asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether he would grant a Return giving the scale upon which these charges were settled, and also the amounts paid last year, not to individuals, but to the different counties.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot promise to give that information off-hand, but I will make inquiries. I can, however, give the hon. Member some information in respect of the amounts paid to the sheriffs themselves. The high sheriff receives for each day's attendance up to eight days five guineas, and for each subsequent attendance three guineas. The under-sheriff receives for each day's attendance up to eight days three guineas, and for each subsequent attendance two guineas. The clerk receives one guinea for each day. That is in addition to the amount allowed for lodging for the judges.

AN HON. MEMBER asked whether it was not practically a salary.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No; it is an allowance for providing lodgings for the judge.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) asked whether the sheriff's personal expenses amounted to five guineas a day.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought that any high sheriff would be glad to get off at anything like that sum.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118: Noes, 181. [Division List No. 152.]

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Chas.P.(Glouc.,Stroud.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith,Rt.Hon.Herbert Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Colville, John
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Frank
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie,J. K.(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse,C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan,Col. JohnP.(Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thompson, E.C.(Monaghan,N
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Warner,Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Goddard and Mr. George Whiteley.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn.A. J. Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,VC.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Ashton Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Collings, Rt Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford,SirWilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Evans,Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Faber, George Denison

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gordon, Maj Ev'ns-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Hamilton, Rt Hn L'rd G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'n'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, John (Kent, F'versh'm
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Middlemore, John T.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J (Walthamst'w
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hon M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

Tellers for the Noes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked for some explanation as to the doings of that expensive and mysterious body, the Railway and Canal Commission. Did the country get any return for the expenditure incurred in connection with that tribunal? It was very difficult to bring any case before the Commission, and when a case had been brought there appeared to be no means by which its decision could be enforced. There was a case which excited a great deal of interest among the trading community for many years connected with the carriage of "smalls." After a long contest the matter was brought before the Commissioners, and tried in the case of Smith and Morris *v.* The London and North-Western Railway Company and ten other railway companies. The case lasted several months, and eventually a decision was given entirely in favour of the traders. The decision was everything the traders could ask for, but it had been simply laughed at by the railway companies. Another case was with regard to workmen's trains in London. Again the decision of the Commissioners was absolutely in favour of the plaintiffs, but it had been practically set at naught—not absolutely or altogether, but the decision had not been carried out even by the company against which it was given. Could the Government do nothing to enforce decisions which had been obtained at such great expense to the traders and farmers of the country? The present position of affairs was a perfect scandal, and some step should be taken to put an end to it or to the Commission. The Commission was, to a certain extent, a fraud, and there should be some other means of controlling the railway companies, which in many ways were throtling the life of some of the industries of the country.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I think the hon. Member is under some misapprehension in regard to this matter. He refers to a particular case in reference to "smalls," in which the decision of the Commissioners had no effect given to it. There must be some special circumstances attending that case, and until one knows all the details it is impossible to give the hon. Gentleman any information in regard to it. As to the allegation that the orders of the Commission are not enforceable, all I can say is that the hon. Member is under a complete misapprehension. They may be enforced by any rule of the superior Courts, and under the Act of 1888 a railway company is liable to very heavy penalties for every day it disobeys such orders. There must be some very special circumstances in the particular case to which the hon. Member refers.

MR. LOUGH was sorry to receive such a weak reply. The case was a well-known case, and one which it was agreed between the traders and the railway companies should be referred to the Commission for decision. He had given full details; he asserted that not one of the companies had carried out the obligation the Commissioners had laid upon them, and he thought the Committee should have a proper reply in regard to the matter before they proceeded further.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said that the hon. Member referred, no doubt, to a very well-known case, and, as he was acquainted with the facts of that case, he could assure the hon. Member that the order of the Commission had been entirely obeyed.

MR. LOUGH dissented.

MR. CRIPPS said he happened to know all the details of the case, and he also knew that the railway companies had obeyed the order. He would further point out that not only were there the ordinary facilities in legal proceedings for enforcing the orders of the Commission, but there were special powers for imposing penalties on railway companies if they disregarded those orders. He did not know of a single instance in which the decision of the Commission had not been obeyed. Probably not a tithe of the cases came into court at all, but were settled for the very reason that Parliament had provided a court. The country had had the advantage of having some of the best judges to preside over the Commission, its decisions had generally given satisfaction, and certainly they had always been attended to.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS, referring to the statement of the hon. and learned Member for Stretford that not a tithe of the cases were really brought into court, pointed out that as a matter of fact the average number of cases during the last four years brought into court before the Commissioners was twenty-five. The total number of cases, some of which were settled out of court, was 100, so that the actual proportion brought into court was one-fourth.

MR. CRIPPS remarked that cases were settled without any court proceedings at all simply because there was a court.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS thought the country was paying a very large sum for a Commission which settled twenty-five cases in a year. He contended that the Commission ought to be more generally accessible to the traders of the country. Only an infinitesimal proportion of the cases that ought to be brought were actually brought before the Commission. The efficiency of the court could, he thought, be greatly increased if it were possible to appoint Sub-Commissioners, and to make some rearrangement of the court so that more cases might be heard. Every case affecting an Irish railway company had to be settled by this Court in London. Could the hon. and learned Gentleman give a single case which had been decided in Ireland?

SIR EDWARD CARSON: I have very often appeared before the Railway Commissioners in Ireland.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Not within the last two years at all events.

Mr. CRIPPS: Since the Act of 1888 an Irish case cannot be heard in London.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS said that, according to the reports for the last two years, cases affecting Irish railways had been dealt with in London.

Mr. CRIPPS: They not only had not been, but they cannot be.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS said he should be very happy to prove what he had stated to the hon. and learned Member. In regard to the difficulties connected with appearing before this Commission, he would venture to support the hon. Member for West Islington as to the illegal charges made by the railway companies of this country. Some years ago, when he had occasion to go into this matter rather carefully, a trader supplied him with the different rates charged, and he drew the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to them. There were different columns showing the legal rate and the rate which the company did actually charge, against which the trader was unable to protect himself. It was shown that the railway companies charged higher rates than they were legally entitled to. As regarded the agricultural trades, the farmer was charged a much higher rate than the man who was in a position to make a bargain with the railway company. His intention was to show that, as a matter of fact, unless railway companies were constantly overhauled they made illegal charges.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That matter does not arise on this Vote.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS contended that there ought to be a tribunal established which would be more accessible to the traders of the country than the Railway and Canal Commission. He wished to know whether it was not possible to so arrange the work of the Railway and Canal Commission as to make it possible for a much larger number of cases to be heard in different parts of the country, so as to prevent the necessity of traders coming up to London. This practice was absolutely prohibited in the case of a large number of traders. When a big colliery company or a railway company had a quarrel with another large company they were generally powerful enough to fight their own battles——

*The CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to make this an opportunity for attacking the policy of railway companies.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS pointed out that every case affecting an Irish railway company had to be settled by this court sitting in London. [Cries of "No."] Could the Solicitor General mention one case which had been settled in Ireland?

Sir EDWARD CARSON: I have appeared before the Commission in Ireland.

Mr. CRIPPS: Since the Act of 1888 an Irish case cannot be brought to London.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS said that he had the Reports of the Commission showing that such cases had been brought to London.

Mr. CRIPPS: They not only have not been, but they cannot be.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS said he could prove that he was right. The cost of appearing before the Commission was prohibitive to small traders. In conclusion, he would only say that as railway companies had every possible advantage on their side when they appeared before the Railway and Canal Commission, he trusted that the Government would find means to enable the traders to have a much more accessible Court of Appeal than the present Railway and Canal Commission.

Mr. LOUGH said he had been placed in a most embarrassing position. It was very inconvenient when they differed about matters of fact, and the hon. and learned Member opposite had said that what he had stated was practically false. Before presuming to bring the matter before the House he wrote to the Board of Trade, and he received a reply on the 11th of January, five months after the decision had been given. They sent him a copy of the correspondence received from the London and North-Western Railway, the Great Western Railway Company, and the Midland Railway Company, and from the other ten companies to which he had alluded. The reply was to the effect that the companies were considering what they should do, and they practically refused to be bound by the decision. He knew that this was not the occasion to argue the matter out, but he thought he had said sufficient to satisfy the Committee that he had *prima facie* grounds for bringing the matter forward. For about one month he had not been following the matter, and perhaps during that time they had carried out their decision. He thought it was the business of the Government to take up this point and give him an answer.

*Sir ALBERT ROLLIT said that he had every respect for his hon. friend's opinion as a lawyer, but he wished to say that the opinion of commercial bodies was very strong in the direction that this tribunal was a most costly and cumbersome one. The difficulty of getting its decisions was owing to its inaccessibility on the ground of cost and trouble. As far as he was able to judge he did not think a private trader could approach such a tribunal at all. At present nearly the whole of the litigation was carried on between the railway companies and associations of traders; and what they wanted was a cheap tribunal which would enable a private trader to have an opportunity of redressing any injustice which might be inflicted upon him by a powerful corporation or public body. With regard to the cost of this tribunal, he would quote from the Report of the Commission itself, for it contained some very significant figures which showed that it was very costly. The total cost of the Railway and Canal Commission last year was £6,500, in addition to the proportionate cost of a Judge of the High Court to preside over it, for although the official business was transacted in England the court could sit either in England or in Ireland, presided over by an Irish judge, or in Scotland presided over by a Scotch one. The cases entered, including many which were merely formal, were ninety-two. There were only thirty-two hearings, or parts of hearings, so the cost of each case heard was £200. That, of course, meant expensive fees, which were very high in that court. He ventured to say that when a private trader required protection against any oppression on the part of a powerful body a tribunal of that sort, with its array of judges, highly paid commissioners, counsel, expert, and other witnesses, etc., was no use whatever. The railway companies had always been extremely anxious to make the Railway Commission the court of ultimate appeal, and they did not want a more accessible body. He did not say that with any feeling against the railway companies, but he thought their interests and those of the public would be best served if railway rates were speedily adapted and adjusted according to the constantly varying demands of trade and by commercial necessities; and if that could be done without the cost and trouble of the Railway and Canal Commission it would be very much the better for the trade and business of the country.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS then moved the reduction of the Vote by £100, remarking that he thought that, after the speech of the President of the London Chamber of Commerce, the House ought to express its sense of the costliness of the Railway and Canal Commission.

Motion made, and Question put, "That Item B (Salaries of Railway and Canal Commissioners) be reduced by £200."—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 112; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 153.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight

Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur William (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan, Gow'r
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Herbert Lewis and Mr. Strachey.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hn. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'derry)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (Staffs., N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh.)
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesh.)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis

Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Robt.Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthams'w)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHnAGraham(Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch,Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant,James Farquharson
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Sturt,Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Webb,ColonelWilliam George
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(Taunt'n)
Wharton, Rt.Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,RtHn.E.R.(Bath)
Wortley, Rt.Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed:—

*MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said he desired to call the attention of the Committee for a very short time to an item which appeared on page 254 of £3,000 a year—£2,500 to the Incorporated Law Society of England and £500 to the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland. He had been a member for some ten years of that Society in London, from 1876 to 1886, and during those years they had no grant in any shape or form given to them by the Government. He ventured to say that the work at that time was done quite as satisfactorily at it was at the present time. There was no similar grant made for Scotland. They had heard a good deal about doles, but he ventured to say that this was one of the worst possible description, because it was a dole given to a wealthy body who did not require it, and to a body of men who were perfectly able to take care of themselves. The money given to this society was subject to no sort or kind of audit. Had it not been for the assistance in obtaining this grant given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton—who was to be President of the Incorporated LawSociety next year—and the late Mr. Gregory, a former President of the Incorporated Law Society, and deservedly respected in this House, he did not think that the Committee of this House would ever have sanctioned such a grant. He saw no reason why a grant of this sort should not be given with equal justice to the members of the bar, the medical profession, or to the bishops. The society did without that grant during the time he was a member of it, and if such a proposal had been brought forward by a private Member it would have been laughed out of the House. Practically, there was only one justification why this grant had ever been made, and it was the fact that solicitors had a very heavy annual fee to pay. He did not see why a solicitor should have such a heavy impost put upon him, but that was no reason why they should vote annually a sum of money over which they had no control whatever.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item L be reduced by £500, in respect of Grants in Aid of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: As my hon. friend has attributed to me an influence in this matter of which I am entirely guiltless, perhaps I am entitled at once to set him right upon this point. It is a mistake to suppose that I had any influence or interest in the matter. In 1888—in which year my hon. friend says he ceased to be a member, and when I was not a member of the Council of the Law Society—an Act was passed through Parliament which, so far from my supporting, I took considerable part in opposing and modifying. The Act provided for the appointment by the Master of the Rolls of a statutory committee for the purpose of inquiring into charges against solicitors, and of making, if the committee so reported, an application to strike a solicitor off the rolls. That committee was to consist of seven members of the Council of the Incorporated Law Society. The object of that Act, an object I think well founded, was to save expense, and to promote the more rapid dealing with solicitors guilty of dishonourable conduct, in lieu of the expensive and protracted proceeding of going before a Master of the Queen's Bench. This committee was empowered to hear all serious complaints, to hear all the charges very fully. If they thought them well founded, after hearing both sides, and if they were of opinion that further action should be taken, then they were to bring the matter before the court. I know nothing of the proceedings except by the ordinary sources of information which are open to every member of the society. This committee has been in operation for, I think, upwards of twelve years. I have the figures for eleven of these years, and I find that they have heard 1,242 applications. A large number of these cases were unfounded and dismissed, but I may say that the general result has been that they made reports to the Court on 275 cases, and a considerable number of offending solicitors have been removed from the roll, while others have been acquitted of the charges. Their reports have not only met with the approval of Lord Esher, Mr. Justice Wills, the Lord Chancellor and other distinguished judges, but the actual figures show how the courts have been impressed with the work of the committee. There have been only eight overrulings of the decisions of the committee by the Divisional Court, and although there have been eleven appeals, only in two cases have those appeals been successful. I think that shows that the body has discharged its judicial duties in a satisfactory and efficient manner. All this has involved very great expense. I am sure my hon. friend had not the figures before him. When I tell him that the actual expenditure has been on an average over £5,000 a year, he will see that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not acting too liberally when he dealt with this application. It was, I think, in 1897 the application came before Parliament, and the Chancellor then suggested to the House that a grant should be given, and it was left practically in his hands to fix the amount after investigation. At all events, the House by a majority, on the 11th of May, 1897, resolved—

> "That this House is of opinion that a portion of the expense incurred by the Incorporated Law Society, while fulfilling the duties imposed upon it by satute, should be defrayed out of public funds."

My hon. friend says that since that time this money has been subject to no audit. He is misinformed. All that money is submitted to audit, and not passed without being very carefully vouched in every sense. The bulk of the cases arise in this way. A person who considers himself aggrieved brings his case to the society, and he is given the means of paying solicitor and counsel. The expenses which are incurred are principally sums of money to solicitors and counsel on behalf of applicants, and every year during the last five years the amount of the grant was considerably less than the actual payments to solicitors and counsel for the work they had done. I come to the case in which the hon. Member for Northampton has taken a great interest —the case of Mr. F., as it was called in court the other day, in regard to which I think there was a *prima facie* case for examination. It was a case apparently of very considerable oppression on the part of the solicitors, and it was a case that demanded investigation. In the first instance the committee did not think it demanded investigation. They subsequently changed their minds, and it was investigated. I do not know whether my hon. friend has any idea of the cost of that investigation. The cost of that investigation has already amounted to £1,169 19s. 10d. It was a most elaborate and protracted inquiry, and the committee, when it was completed, found that, although they did not approve of the conduct of the solicitor in some respects, it was a case in which they could not advise further legal proceedings. The High Court confirmed the view of the committee. Well, the aggrieved party naturally was dissatisfied with this decision, and he wanted to appeal. He came to the Incorporated Law Society and said, "Will you pay the costs of my appeal to the Court of Appeal?" I advised my colleagues to pay that money. They agreed to pay a fee of a hundred guineas, and this week the Court of Appeal has affirmed the decision already given, that there was no case and no action to justify criminal proceedings. They thought the solicitor had been guilty of unwise and irregular conduct in the matter, and they have inflicted on him the penalty of paying the costs.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: The applicant has been robbed.

*Sir HENRY FOWLER: We have paid on behalf of the gentleman whom my friend says has been robbed all the expenses for his solicitors and counsel. That is the position. This committee have judicial duties. I believe they have discharged them to the best of their ability. I think they are not called upon to—nor will they as a matter of fact—continue to discharge all the expenses amounting to large sums. The present arrangement, I believe, is working well. The society is in close harmony and touch with the Public Prosecutor, and they are rendering a great public service at comparatively small expense to the community in carrying out those duties. I have no authority to make any appeal for the society, but I only tell the Committee the facts. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury know how the expenditure of the grant is audited.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: I cannot help thinking that this reduction has been moved under a sort of misapprehension. The old procedure with regard to offences of this kind was exceedingly cumbersome. It was considered in 1888 that it would be very much better that the Committee of the Incorporated Law Society should consider these matters, investigate the charges, and afterwards bring them before the court. I desire to read to the Committee an expression of opinion by Lord Esher and the present Mr. Justice Wills in regard to the way in which this committee has done its work. Lord Esher said in hearing a case on 28th January, 1897—

> "It was impossible to find a tribunal which exercised its functions with greater care and diligence than this committee,"

and Mr. Justice Wills in April, 1899, spoke of it as—

> "a most careful body, which gives such valuable assistance to the court."

Here is a body that has commanded the praise of everyone who knows anything of the subject, and in the discharge of their duties they necessarily incur expenses, which have been returned to the Treasury, and which are open to the examination of the Treasury. They amount to something over £5,000 a year. The expenses have been far in excess of the amount of this annual grant. Under these circumstances I would ask the Committee whether it would not be a mistake to go back from the position which has been taken up. We are having this work admirably done. We are making a grant that represents only about half the expenses which the committee of the society incurs, and I would desire to make an appeal to the Committee to bring this matter as speedily as may be to a conclusion in order that the Vote may be taken to-night.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said it was really not fair that they should be called upon not to go into the matter but to vote because it was near twelve o'clock, and then go on comfortably for another year. He did not complain of what his right hon. friend the Member for East Wolverhampton had said with regard to the facts, but he complained of the colour he had put on the facts. His right hon. friend said perfectly truly that the Act of 1888 was passed giving powers to the Committee of the Incorporated Law Society, but it was not the public that demanded that Act. It was brought in at the request of the Incorporated Law Society, who wished to make a family party of the whole thing, and to have the matter in their own hands. There must be a great many black sheep among the profession. He found from the statement of his right hon. friend that the complaints against solicitors brought before this tribunal were 1,242, and of that number the society only reported on 275; in all the others they sided with the solicitors. The real complaint against the society was that solicitors were being tried by solicitors.

The public were not represented on this committee. The Attorney General quoted two judges who were very much dissatisfied with the action of the committee. All he could say was that the former head of the disciplinary committee was at present enjoying the hospitality of the country in one of His Majesty's prisons, and they might judge from that in what an extraordinary manner justice was administered by the committee. What happened was this. When some small solicitor was brought before them they were very severe against him, but when some large and important solicitor was brought before them they took a very kindly view of the matter. He did not say that it was their fault. The truth was that there was that sort of trade unionism among the solicitors which existed in all callings. When they had been probably on friendly terms with the gentleman accused, they whitewashed him if they possibly could. His right hon. friend alluded to a gentleman under the name of Mr. F. It was perfectly true he had called attention to that matter, and the late Lord Chief Justice also took up the case of Mr. F. The late Lord Chief Justice did his best to get the Incorporated Law Society to look into this matter, and could not. When the present Lord Chief Justice was Master of the Rolls he insisted on the Incorporated Law Society doing their duty. The Master of the Rolls expressed the opinion "that there was a *prima facie* case for investigation." That was a delicate way of directing the society to inquire into the matter, and the result was that they did inquire. If the Lord Chief Justice when Master of the Rolls had not been in a position to use his power as head and superior of this society, there would not have been an inquiry. The hon. Member had not seen the report, but, as he gathered, the society did find fault with the gentleman in question, but at the same time they whitewashed him.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: They acquitted him.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Mr. F. failed technically, but he may have been in the right. The hon. Member said he would rest his point on this. The society was a society of solicitors to try solicitors, without the public being represented. For a considerable time the head of the disciplinary committee that was charged with the duty of deciding whether they would report in the first instance was a solicitor who at present was in one of His Majesty's prisons. There were a large number of cases at the time, of solicitors taking an erroneous view of property that did not belong to them, and this particular solicitor was one of them. Under these circumstances he thought they should not agree to give this money any further to the society. He should certainly vote for the reduction of £500 moved by his hon. friend, but his only complaint was that there would still remain £2,000 for him subsequently to ask the House to disallow.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that a more scandalous piece of extravagance than this was never perpetrated on the public. He undertook to say that if for one happy hour he could clear the House of lawyers he could sweep away this charge by a majority of two to one. The history of this grant was discreditable to the Incorporated Law Society, and most discreditable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who told them that he was always reproving his colleagues for extravagance, had without the slightest necessity invented this charge on the public exchequer. There were a number of gentlemen called solicitors, and for some reason or other they were in such a habit of mind with regard to the property of other persons that they required exceptional disciplinary treatment from that required in other callings, He had never heard of an incorporated society of bakers to see that bakers did not give short weight, or of grocers to see that they did not mix sand with the sugar. It was only the solicitors who said that there were so many rogues amongst them that they must have this committee. In the year 1888 a solicitor conceived the idea of getting further powers—hence the Act of 1888. In 1896, the solicitors having in the meantime been striking each other off the rolls merrily, and mostly the wrong men, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed this charge. The whole House rose against it, the lawyers not having been whipped up, and it was withdrawn; but shortly afterwards a solicitors' whip was made, a resolution was moved on a Wednesday afternoon, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer perpetrated this extraordinary extravagance, and saddled the country with a charge of £2,500 a year, to enable fraudulent solicitors to strike other fraudulent solicitors off the rolls. He analysed the expenses last year, or the year before, and had a disagreement with his hon. friend the Member for South Islington with respect to a charge for rent.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said there was a ledger item for rent, but it was only in respect of the portion of the premises actually occupied in doing the work deputed to the society by Act of Parliament. His hon. friend's difference, however, had not been with himself, but with the late Attorney General, who it was that demurred to the allegation of a charge for rent.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said it was a charge which should not be called expense of that sort. But whether that was so or not, this country ought not to be called upon to pay £2,500 a year for any such purpose as this. He would divide against it, and use all his influence against it. He was sorry indeed, that he had not more influence. If no other item whatever should be struck off the national expenses, this one at least ought to go.

*MR. BUTCHER (York) rose to speak, but, it being midnight, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

*THE CHAIRMAN put the Question, and named as tellers against it Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Butcher.

*MR. BUTCHER stated that he did not object to the moving of the closure, and he declined to act as a teller against it; thereupon the Chairman named Mr. Eugene Wason in his place.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 168; Noes, 94. [Division List No. 154.]

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hn. A.J. (Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles,T.Gibson(King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc')
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar,TR.(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence,Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gordon,Maj.Evans-(T'rH'lets)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt.Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,WalfordD(Wednesb'ry
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Mid'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nd'rry
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hope,J.F. (Sheffield, Brightsd.
Howard,John(Kent,Faversh'm
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. Salop
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonor
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth

Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Smith, Abel H. (Hereford, E.)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Charle Algernon
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn, E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E)
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bill, Charles
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Mooney, John J,
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (N'th'nts
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Eugene Wason.

Question put accordingly, "That Item L be reduced by £500, in respect of Grants in Aid of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 94; Noes, 165. [Division List No. 155.]

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, Walford D (Wednesb'ry)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshi'e
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Malcolm, Ian
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer. Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Eugene Wason and Mr. Gibson-Bowles.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'ml'ts, SGeo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank, Master of
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'dond'rry)
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, John (Kent, F'versh'm
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Knowles, Lees
Law; Andrew Bonar
Lawson; John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants; Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie; A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.
Majendie, James A. H.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfries-sh.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (W'lth'mst'w
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.

Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hon. M. W(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert(Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker(Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomas, J A (Glamorg'n, Gower
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £22,504, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the Incorporated Law Societies of England and Ireland."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 169; Noes, 85. [Division List No. 156.]

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets S. Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank, Master of
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D (Wednesbu'y
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hope, J. F. (Sh'ffield, Brightside
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh'm
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walthams'w
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter

Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas, J A (Glamorgan Gower
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt Hon. E. R (Bath)
Wortley, Rt Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Farrell, James Patrick
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, C. E.H. (Bristol, E.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Govern, T.
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary M'd
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thompson, E.C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One of the clock till Monday next.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

TABLES EXPLANATORY OF BUDGET STATEMENT.

REVENUE (EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS) AND EXPENDITURE (EXCHEQUER ISSUES) FOR 1900–1901.

Revenue (Exchequer Receipts)—1900–1901.	£
CUSTOMS	26,262,000
INLAND REVENUE :	
Excise	33,100,000
Estate, etc., Duties ...	12,980,000
Stamps...	7,825,000
Land Tax	755,000
House Duty	1,720,000
Property and Income Tax (at 1s. in the £)	26,920,000
Total Tax Revenue ...	**109,562,000**
POST OFFICE	13,800,000
Telegraph Service ...	3,450,000
Crown Lands	500,000
Suez Canal Share and Cognate Receipts ...	830,000
Miscellaneous	2,243,000
Total Non-Tax Revenue	**20,823,000**
Total Revenue	**130,385,000**
Deficit	**53,207,000**
	183,592,000

Expenditure (Exchequer Issues)—1900–1901.	£
I.—CONSOLIDATED FUND SERVICES.	
National Debt Services :	
A. Inside the fixed charge	18,453,000
B. Outside the fixed charge	1,383,000
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,569,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts ...	1,152,000
Total Consolidated Fund Services	**22,557,000**
II.—SUPPLY SERVICES.	
Army (including Ordnance Factories) ...	91,710,000
Navy	29,520,000
Civil Services	23,500,000
Customs and Inland Revenue	2,834,000
Post Office	8,963,000
Telegraph Service ...	3,737,000
Packet Service	771,000
Total Supply Services ...	**161,035,000**
Total Expenditure ...	**183,592,000**

Note.—See for fuller figures, House of Commons Paper 128.

BALANCE SHEET (ESTIMATED) FOR 1901–1902 ON BASIS OF EXISTING TAXATION, AND BEFORE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Revenue (Exchequer Receipts)— 1901-1902.	£	Expenditure (Exchequer Issues)— 1901-1902.	£
CUSTOMS	23,600,000	I.—CONSOLIDATED FUND SERVICES.	
INLAND REVENUE:		National Debt Services: A. Inside the Fixed charge	23,000,000
Excise	33,100,000	B. Outside the Fixed charge	2,000,000
Estate, &c., Duties ...	14,000,000	Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,650,000
Stamps	8,000,000	Payments to Local Taxation Accounts ...	1,150,000
Land Tax	750,000		
House Duty	1,750,000		
Property and Income Tax (at 1s. in the £.)	30,000,000	**Total Consolidated Fund Services ... ...**	**27,800,000**
Total Tax Revenue ...	**111,200,000**	II.—SUPPLY SERVICES.	
		Army (including Ordnance Factories) ...	88,260,000
POST OFFICE	14,300,000	Navy	30,876,000
Telegraph Service ...	3,450,000	Civil Services	23,630,000
Crown Lands	475,000	Customs and Inland Revenue	2,890,000
Suez Canal Share and Cognate Receipts ...	830,000	Post Office	9,329,000
Miscellaneous	2,000,000	Telegraph Service ...	4,036,000
Total Non-Tax Revenue...	**21,055,000**	Packet Service	781,000
Total Revenue	**132,255,000**	**Total Supply Services...**	**159,802,000**
Estimated Deficit ...	**55,347,000**		
	187,602,000	**Total Expenditure ...**	**187,602,000**

Note.—See for fuller figures, House of Commons Paper 128.

BALANCE SHEET (ESTIMATED) 1901-1902, SHOWING THE EFFECT OF THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Revenue (Exchequer Receipts)—1901-1902.		£	£
CUSTOMS—			
As in Appendix II.		23,600,000	
Add— Amount receivable from :—	£		
(1) Sugar Duty	5,100,000		
(2) Coal Duty	2,100,000	7,200,000	
			30,800,000
INLAND REVENUE :			
Excise—As in Appendix II.			33,100,000
Estate, etc., Duties			14,000,000
Stamps			8,000,000
Land Tax			750,000
House Duty			1,750,000
Property and Income Tax at 1s. in the £ as in Appendix II.		30,000,000	
Add— Amount receivable from additional 2d. in the £.		3,800,000	
			33,800,000
Total Tax Revenue			122,200,000
Post Office			14,300,000
Telegraph Service...			3,450,000
Crown Lands			475,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and sundry Loans			830,000
Miscellaneous			2,000,000
Total Non-Tax Revenue			21,055,000
Total Estimated Revenue			143,255,000
Estimated Deficit			40,957,000
			184,212,000

Expenditure (Exchequer Issues)—1901-1902.		£
I.—CONSOLIDATED FUND SERVICES.		
As in Appendix II.	£ 27,800,000	
Deduct— Proposed suspension of the Sinking Fund	4,640,000	
	23,160,000	
Add— Interest, &c. on new Loan	1,250,000	24,410,000
Total Consolidated Fund Services ...		24,410,000
II.—SUPPLY SERVICES.		
Army (including Ordnance Factories)		88,260,000
Navy		30,876,000
Civil Services ...		23,630,000
Customs and Inland Revenue		2,890,000
Post Office		9,329,000
Telegraph Service...		4,036,000
Packet Service ...		781,000
Total Supply Services		159,802,000
Total Estimated Expenditure ...		184,212,000

Note.—See for fuller figures, House of Commons Paper 128.

APPENDIX II.

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Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column relate to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following the title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) House of Lords.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Alkali, &c., Works Regulation [H.L.]	*Lord Kenyon*	Read 1^{a} 22 Apl. (881)
Army (Annual)	—	Read 1^{a} 2^{a} and 3^{a}, 26 Apl. (1420)
Betting [H.L.]	*Bishop of Hereford*	Read 1^{a} 22 Apl. (881)
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	—	Read 1^{a} 2^{a} 3^{a}; Royal Assent 29 Mar. (197)
Marriages Legalisation [H.L.]	*Lord Belper*	Read 1^{a} 26 Apl. (1254)
Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) [H.L.]	*Lord Ribblesdale*	Read 2^{a} 28 Mar. (6); Committee Report 23 April (1055)
Polling Districts (County Councils) [H.L.]	*Lord Ribblesdale*	Read 2^{a} 28 Mar. (7); Committee Report, 23 April (1055)
Prevention of Corruption [H.L.]	*Lord Alverstone*	Read 2^{a} 23 Apl. (1052)
*Prisons (Scotland) [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour*	Committee Report 29 Mar. (200)
Solicitors [H.L.]	*Lord Alverstone*	Read 1^{a} 23 Apl. (1052)

(B.) House of Commons.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by.	Progress.
*Army (Annual)	*Mr. Brodrick*	Read 2^{o} 1 Apl. (423); Committee Report 22 Apl. (1029); Read 3^{o} 25 Apl. (1347)
Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	*Sir M. Hicks-Beach*	Read 3^{o} 28 Mar. (95)
Cremation [H.L.]	——	Read 2^{o} 1 Apl. (447)
*Demise of Crown	*Sir Robert Finlay*	Read 2^{o} 1 Apl. (382)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Dublin Corporation	*Mr. Wyndham*	Read 1° 1 Apl. (382)
Factories and Workshops	*Mr. Tennant*	Read 1° 26 Apl. (1461)
Factory and Workshop Acts Amendment	*Mr. Ritchie*	Read 1° 28 Mar. (90)
Factory and Workshop Acts Consolidation	*Mr. Ritchie*	Read 1° 28 Mar. (94)
*Fisheries (Ireland)	*Mr. Wyndham*	Read 1° 1 Apl. (381)
Housing of the Working Classes (Repayment of Loans)	*Mr. Hay*	Read 1° 29 Mar. (236)
Infant Life Protection Act (1897) Amendment	*Mr. Spear*	Read 1° 23 Apl. (1093)
*Isolation Hospitals	*Mr. Walter Long*	Read 2° 1 Apl. (439)
*Light Railways	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Read 1° 1 Apl (379)
Local Government Act (1888) Amendment	*Mr. Spear*	Read 1° 23 Apl. (1094)
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister	*Sir Brampton Gurdon*	Read 2° 24 Apl. (1184)
*National Gallery (Purchase of Adjacent Land)	*Mr. Akers-Douglas*	Read 1° 29 Mar. (237)
Parliamentary Elections (Mariners' Votes)	*Mr. Macdona*	Read 2° 1 Apl. (455)
Petroleum	*Master of Elibank*	Read 1° 2 Apl. (494)
Private Legislation Procedure (Wales, including Monmouthshire)	*Mr. D. A. Thomas*	Read 1° 26 Apl. (1461)
Public Health	*Sir F. Powell*	Read 1° 2 Apl. (493)
Tramway (Ireland) Acts Amendment	*Mr. O'Doherty*	Read 1° 29 Mar. (237)
Vagrants' Children Protection	*Mr. Warr*	Read 1° 19 Apl. (829)
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (No 3)	*Mr. Joseph Walton*	Read 1° 26 Apl. (1461)

APPENDIX III.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. SESSION 1901.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

[*Continuation of List given in preceding Volume.*]

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Board of Education (Code, 1901),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Day Schools, with Schedules and Appendices, by the Board of Education [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	28 March	One month
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance),—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. V. (Glasgow, No. 1) (Regulations for Degrees in Science in Agriculture) [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20]	2 April	12 weeks
Factory and Workshop Acts (Period of Employment) (Warehouses in Factories or Workshops where Bright or Burnished Metal Goods are made),—Copy of Order, dated 6th September, 1900, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 65 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and Section 39 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, permitting the Warehouses in Factories and Workshops where Bright or Burnished Metal Goods are made to be treated as separate Factories or Workshops, as far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons, and women [41 and 42 Vic., c. 16, s. 65]	18 April	40 days
Western Australia (Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1900),—Copy of the Constitution Act Amendmend Act, 1900, of Western Australia, No. V. [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 32]	18 April	30 days
Queensland (The Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act, and the Elections Acts 1885 to 1898 Amendment Act of 1900),—Copy of the Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Acts 1885 to 1898 Amendment Act of 1900 of Queensland [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 32]	18 April	30 days
Education (Scotland),—Copy of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, dated 19th April, 1901, amending the terms of Article 89 (b) of the Code of 1901 [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	19 April	One month
Education (Scotland) (Continuation Classes),—Copy of (1) Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further Instruction for those who have left School; (2) Memorandum on the Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	26 April	One month

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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

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